

BELL'S
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Life sentences, armed forces
enlisted to combat threat

MPs urge harsher heroin penalties

By David Hencke, Social
Services Correspondent

Tough legal action to counter what MPs describe as the biggest threat to the stability of peace time Britain — the burgeoning heroin and cocaine trade — was demanded yesterday by the all-party Commons home affairs committee.

The report calls for harsher penalties for drug traffickers than currently given to IRA terrorists, murderers and child molesters.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher said yesterday in the Commons that the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, was working on precise proposals for legislation "to seize and confiscate the proceeds of drug traffickers."

The home affairs committee wants to bring in the Navy and the RAF to survey and possibly intercept ships suspected of bringing in heroin or cocaine.

The report says that life sentences equivalent to the death penalty for premeditated murder should be meted out for all people convicted of drug-trafficking, including foreign-born who would stand trial in Britain rather than being deported.

The chairman, Sir Edward Gardner, wanted the death penalty restored.

The committee's report also calls for a change in international banking laws to allow the police to obtain information to stop the "laundering" of money obtained by crime from being transferred elsewhere.

This would allow banking assets to be seized even if they went abroad.

On a more mundane level the MPs also called for police

attaches its diplomatic status to be attached to the Washington Embassy and to the Consulate in Atlanta, plus more cash to persuade Third World countries to eradicate drug crops.

The committee also attacks the softer attitude towards marijuana, and says it must be bracketed with the campaign against heroin and cocaine.

One committee member, Mr Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington, said that those who had argued for the legalisation of marijuana had been proved wrong because people did progress from one drug to another.

The committee also attacked the regular use of cocaine, with Sir Edward Gardner, said the MPs had been heavily influenced and shaken by their visit to the United States.

Their report found that an estimated 12 million Americans regularly use cocaine, with wealthy and successful middle classes spending up to \$3,000 each a week to satisfy their craving.

"We fear that unless immediate and effective action is taken Britain and Europe stand to inherit the American drug problem in less than five years. We see this as the most serious peace-time threat to our national well-being," the report says.

"Western society is faced by a warlike threat from the hard drugs industry."

"All those whom we consulted in the US made no attempt to conceal their anxieties about the future of drug abuse. Given that the richest nation on earth has now mobilised its resources to the maximum possible extent against the drug traffickers, we found it frightening to be told that they aimed to do no more than 'hold the line' and never claimed to be able to intercept more than 10 per cent of the drugs sent to the US borders."

Sir Edward and Miss Janet Fookes, a Conservative member of the committee, placed great store on the seizing of assets to provide funds for governments to build up their police of the drug trade.

Miss Fookes said she hoped that seizures would make police "self-funding," while Sir Edward said that in the United States the confiscated

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ROYAL DESCENT: a member of the Red Devils, the Parachute Regiment's sky-diving team (above) lands at Kensington Palace where the Prince of Wales and Prince William (right) met team members who are launching a £500,000 appeal for new plane. Pictures by Martin Argles



S. Africa admits army units still inside Angola

From Patrick Laurence
in Johannesburg

The chief of the South African Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen, admitted publicly yesterday that South African soldiers were still in Angola, more than a month after they were officially all withdrawn.

General Viljoen's admission came after a report that the South African commando unit as it was preparing to sabotage a refinery in the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda.

Two South African soldiers were killed and a third was captured in a clash near the Malongo oil complex, an Angolan commune said. The South African unit was equipped with short wave radios, walkie-talkies, guns with silencers, contact mines and are bombs, the Angolan statement added.

The oil complex is operated by the American company, Cabinda Gulf Oil. If proved, South African involvement in sabotage operations in Cabinda could have serious implications for Pretoria's relatively cordial relations with the Reagan Administration.

The Angolan statement implied that the reported clash between its security forces and the South African commandos showed that South Africa's well publicised, complete withdrawal was a propaganda exercise. "Now new adventures of war are being attempted in the north of our country," the Angolans said.

South African troops invaded and occupied parts of southern Angola in December 1985.

General Viljoen did not comment on the Angolan accusations in his statement. Before he acknowledged that small elements of the Defence Force were involved in intelligence-gathering operations north and south of the Angolan capital, Luanda, a defence force spokesman had, however, twice denied the Angolan allegations.

General Viljoen defined the role of SADF "elements" in Angola as one of gathering intelligence about Angola-based African National Congress, Swapo and "Russian surrogate."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Powell bill saved

MR Enoch Powell's bill to outlaw experiments on human embryos was resurrected in the Commons yesterday. Back page.

Fund favoured

STEELWORKERS voted by 7-1 to maintain their union's political fund. Page 2.

Inquiry pledge

THE inquiry into the Bradford Football Club fire opened with a promise that there would be no "white wash or witchhunt." Page 4.

Pentagon fiddles

THE General Dynamics controversy grabbed the headlines but 47 out of 100 US defence contractors are under investigation for fiddling Pentagon contracts. Page 15.

Modern masters

THE cricket captains of modern times who have made their mark on the game are examined by Mike Brearley in the third extract from The Art of Captaincy. Page 23.

Teachers reject 5pc offer and warn of summer of discontent

By Seamus Milne

Talks aimed at ending the teachers' pay dispute broke down last night after union officials had unanimously rejected a proposal from local authority employers to go to arbitration.

After the meeting, Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, warned of "a very hot and discontented summer ahead" and promised further industrial action "not only this term but also for later."

He added that the local authority employers were not responsible for the impasse. The Government was to blame, he said.

Mr Philip Merrifield, who led the employers' side in the negotiations — held under the auspices of the Burnham committee in London — described the outcome as "very sad."

No date for any further meeting has been fixed.

The arbitration proposal came late in the day of protracted negotiations. Earlier, the employers had increased their existing pay offer from 4 to 5 per cent. But at almost 2 per cent below the rate of inflation, union officials rejected the deal without even withdrawing for consultation.

Sir Keith Joseph last night issued a statement asking teachers to think again about their position and the damage they were doing to their pupils and their profession by their intransigence.

He repeated his offer that there could be more money next year, saying he was disappointed that the teachers were not even prepared to present to discuss the possibility of improving career and promotion prospects.

"The teachers' leaders know that this is the only sensible way forward. The Government is making strenuous efforts to improve standards in our schools but some teachers seem determined to continue to hurt the education of our children, to punish parents and to increase the pressures on their colleagues."

Mr Merrifield, who represents the Tory-dominated Association of County Councils on the Burnham panel, said later that the 5 per cent offer represented the local authorities' capacity to pay. Any further increase would threaten teachers' jobs. But Mr Jarvis held out the hope that when the new ACC meets in June, with a changed political balance as a result of the recent county council elections, attitudes might shift.

Mr Jarvis earlier described the 5 per cent offer as "totally inadequate and a waste of time."

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, called it "insulting."

The teachers are seeking an increase of about 12 per cent to make up for lost ground and the local authorities had been expected to come up with a higher figure at yesterday's meeting.

This week's initiative by Sir Keith, promising more government cash for the teachers next year if they agree to new contractual obligations by the autumn, failed to soften the unions' stand. They argue that this year's pay deal must be kept separate from any negotiations over next year's settlement.

Soundings among shire county education authorities in England and Wales had produced assurances that most can afford only 4 to 5 per cent. But teachers' union representatives remain sceptical, and say that these estimates were given by finance officers rather than the newly elected council administrations.

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Joseph schools retort

By our Education Staff

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, yesterday responded to a government school inspectors' report detailing the deteriorating conditions of schools by suggesting that education authorities could spend more money on repairs and maintenance if they saved on caretaking and cleaning.

The report, the most forthright condemnation yet from an official source of the effects of the Government's public spending cuts, said nothing had been done to improve buildings for four years. Repairs would soon be impossible.

In his reply, Sir Keith said: "If costs can be contained and savings made elsewhere — for example in caretaking and cleaning where the Audit Commission report that savings were feasible — there should be scope in the current financial year for some improvement in expenditure per pupil in many authorities both on the provision of books and on repairs and maintenance."

He added: "An excessive pay settlement for teachers would once again put this improvement at risk."

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the underlying message of the report was that education needed more money than is now received and much more than it would be getting when rate-capping takes effect.

Full report, page 3

Double blow to Hindley parole

By Malcolm Dean

The Moors murderer Myra Hindley will not be released for at least five years and Ian Brady, her partner in the crime, for at least 10 following the first formal review of their life sentences by the Parole Board.

But in announcing the board's decision to review their cases again in 1990 and 1995, Mr Leon Brittan, stressed yesterday that no one should assume that either would be released then, supposing that the board made such a recommendation.

In a written Commons answer to Mr Mark Carlisle, Conservative MP for Warrington South, the Home Secretary said: "I would repeat that the reviews then of these cases does not mean either that the periods of detention necessary to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence will have been completed or are near completion or that the Parole Board will recommend release of either prisoner, or

that the Home Secretary would necessarily accept a recommendation if it was made."

A Home Secretary has no discretion to reverse a board's refusal of parole.

Life sentences were imposed on the couple 18 years ago for the sexual assault, torture, and murder of three children. Brady has indicated that he does not want release.

If this recommendation had not been rejected by the Parole Board it would undoubtedly have been by the Home Secretary, who introduced tougher parole procedures in 1983.

The four-member panel which took the decision included the Parole Board chairman, Lord Widdowson, a High Court judge, and a psychiatrist.

The only surprise was the period which the board set for Hindley's next review. Unlike determinate sentences, which have to be reviewed by the board every year, life sentences are open-ended.

Only one prisoner, John Stracey, at present has been inside for more than 30 consecutive years.

Hindley, who wants parole, succeeded at the first of the three-stage review procedure in persuading the local review committee of the prison where she is being held, Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent — to recommend her release.

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The 670-page report says that 46.7 per cent of black children, 38.2 per cent of Hispanics and 55.8 per cent of children in families headed by a woman — a category which has more than doubled in the past 20 years — are poor. For white families, the figure is 17 per cent, although it is suggested that white poverty is less long-lived.

Liberals and conservatives were already quarrelling yesterday about the meaning of the statistics for one of the world's richest societies, after four years of a presidency which has systematically redistributed wealth in favour of the better-off and which is now seeking to cut still further its social programmes and make its welfare recipients work for their "hand-outs."

Three Democratic congressmen, led by New York's senior senator, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, are proposing legislation which would provide index-linked benefits and minimum levels at an initial cost of \$5 billion a year. But they have insufficient support to make much headway yet.

Mr Charles Murray, author of the controversial book, *Losing Ground*, argues that mar-

Syrians 'losing grip' on Palestinian allies

From David Hirst
in Beirut

As Palestinian guerrillas in the Beirut refugee camps yesterday kept up a desperate resistance against the Shiite militias, their comrades in the "Drug-controlled" hills above the city unleashed more heavy bombardment of Shiite residential districts.

The attacks from the hills raised the question whether Syria, behind the Shiite militias, was losing its grip on the camps.

Shells exploded near mousmra, page 10

As a Palestinian spokesman said: "They're pulverising the camps, house by house, with heavy artillery and tank cannon. They won't let the Red Cross in."

In yesterday's artillery bombardments from the hills, Palestinian gunners of the pro-Syrian Salvation Front hit the Red Cross hospital.

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Child poverty study fuels US cuts row

From Michael White
in Washington

Almost one American in child in every four lives in a family whose income is below the official poverty line of \$10,175 a year for a family of four, according to a congressional study. Supporters and critics of one study hope that it will rekindle interest in the problem of poverty in the S.

The report comes as the White House is engaged in a battle with Congress about the 1986 budget. It will fuel charges that the Administration's obsession with cutting social programmes to protect the Pentagon's budget makes a mockery of President Reagan's declared support for American family life. Any of

the proposed cuts have since been restored by Congress.

According to the study, based on census data drawn up by the Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office, about 12.8 million children, or 22.2 per cent of youngsters under 18, are poor — a 50 per cent increase in child poverty since the height of the Johnsonian Great Society programmes of the mid-sixties. Only 26.8 per cent of the American people are children, but children make up 39.2 per cent of the country's poor.

These figures confirm that many academics and politicians have been saying for some time: that while poverty among the elderly has been halved or more by inflation-

proofed pensions and free health provision, poverty among families has worsened. If you are a child of an unmarried mother, without work and without a decent education, your chances of being poor for several years at least are greatly increased. Being black or Hispanic further adds to that likelihood.

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ginal increases in the rates of benefit are "irrelevant" to the problem. Only radical solutions (which are not even being contemplated) might affect the growth of what is called "the feminisation of poverty." This phrase refers to single women with children, especially those keeping illegitimate children — around 20 per cent of the national total. If there was absolutely no official support for illegitimate children, Mr Murray argues, the result would be fewer poor children by virtue of greater contraception, abortion, adoption and "shot-gun" weddings.

Meanwhile, official statistics revealed recently that the neonatal death rate between 28 days and one year has risen from 3.6 per cent to 3.8 per cent.

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SOME sunny intervals. Details, back page.

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France	8.00 franc
Germany	3.50 DM
Greece	100 dr
Italy	2,000 lire
Spain	170 pes
Switzerland	3 fr

Leaders predict a unanimous union 'yes' in enforced ballots

Steel workers vote to retain political fund

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

A seven to one vote by steel workers to retain their political fund led jubilant union leaders yesterday to predict that all 40 unions required to ballot on their political funds retention will deliver a "yes" vote.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation announced yesterday that in a 87.6 per cent turnout 28,683 — 86.7 per cent of those voting — wanted the union's fund retained with 4.40t — 13.3 per cent — favouring dissolution.

Mr Roy Evans, the ITC's general secretary, said it was a proud day for the union and claimed that the campaign had strengthened political awareness among its members.

The ballot, held over the past fortnight, was conducted through a mixture of work place and postal ballots. Only 8 per cent voted by post. There was no discernible difference in the voting pattern between the postal and work place ballot results.

The ITC is the second union to announce the result of its political fund ballots, which are required under the Trades Union Act 1984.

The general print union, Sogat, two weeks ago revealed a three to one vote in favour of retaining its political fund. The Union of Communication Workers is expected to be the next to announce its result. A branch ballot will be held on June 6.

The National Communication Union, formerly the Post Office, Engineering Union, completed its work place ballot today but no result is expected until late June.

The ITC ballot revealed its battering by steel works closures. Just over 48,000 ballots were sent out, even though the union affiliates to the Labour Party on a figure of 70,000. In its 1983 report to the Government's certification officer the union claimed a membership of 90,000.

Questions on four 'sharp shock' centres

By Aileen Ballantyne

A series of parliamentary questions served to the Home Office yesterday on two allegations of staff mistreatment of inmates at four of the 18 detention centres which operate the Government's "short sharp shock" regime for youths under 21.

Seven detention centres in Surrey, one of the first centres in the country to carry out the regime before it was introduced to all 18 centres in England and Wales on March 6 is one of the four centres concerned. The other three are Ux in Gwent, Werrington in Stoke, and Blantyre in Kent.

Mr Gerald Birmingham, Labour MP for St Helens South, has asked the Home Office if it has received any reports of mistreatment of inmates at the four centres. He has also asked for preliminary results of an investigation into allegations of staff misconduct at a fifth centre, Aldington in Kent.

Last month the Guardian disclosed that police are investigating allegations that inmates have been slapped and punched by some prison officers on reception at Aldington. The allegations came from probation officers dealing with inmates there.

Mr Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said yesterday that in the last few weeks the association had received a number of further allegations of staff misconduct from a range of detention centres. In addition, it had received further allegations of staff misconduct at Aldington. These concerned inmates said to have been placed at the end of April.

The Home Office has consistently said that the allegations of misconduct at Aldington date from before introduction of the "short sharp shock" regime on March 6.

In one of the allegations of incidents at the end of April Mr Fletcher said that a boy had been hit by staff during his first day at the centre. The boy alleged that staff had given him "an impossible task".

At the outset of the ITC ballot the Social Democratic Party took out advertisements in steel town newspapers denouncing the ballot as "Labour's levy".

The ITC's political fund has been very close to deficit in recent years, due to its high affiliation to the Labour Party. In 1983 the union's political fund balance at the beginning of the year was only £125. The union received £28,000 income in that year for its political fund.

QC says Asians set out to storm racist 'fount'

By David Rose

A group of 50 Asians who attacked a public house in Newham, east London, with bottles, poles and bats, regarded it as a "fount" of violent racial hostility, prosecuting counsel told an Old Bailey jury yesterday.

Opening the case against seven Asians and three whites, who all deny charges arising from incidents on April 7, 1984, Mr Michael Kallisher, QC, said that the attack on the Duke of Edinburgh in Green Street, was the culmination of a violent series of incidents lasting most of the day.

Mr Kallisher said that the incidents began when a group of white youths entered a Wimpy bar where 12 Asians — including three of these defendants — were sitting and began to behave in "an unattractive way" to one of the waitresses, who was friendly with the Asians.

"They were offensive and familiar to her and generally misbehaved. The Asians were upset and got up and left. Soon after, witnesses heard the sounds of fighting on the pavement outside the Wimpy bar. A group of Asians was seen attacking a white youth."

No charges arose from this attack, Mr Kallisher said, and later a group of five or six whites entered the Wimpy bar looking for the Asians who had been responsible.

At about 3.15 pm witnesses would say they heard more shouting from the vicinity of the Wimpy bar and saw a car driving round and round a nearby roundabout.

Mr Kallisher said: "It was full of Asians shouting to people in the street: 'We are going to get you, you fucking white pig' and they were directed at people outside the Duke of Edinburgh."

Minutes later Scott, the brother of Stuart Young, a white defendant, was stopped by 10 or 15 Asians.

The Asians punched and kicked him and set about him with a milk crate. Mr Kallisher said: "His face was covered in blood and he was dazed and昏迷."

At about this time, a man with a cut face went into the local branch of Tesco and bought a claw hammer, accompanied by a girl who tried to restrain him.

Mr Kallisher went on: "It seemed that the man had been subjected to some violence and was aiming himself for revenge."

There followed a series of "very violent attacks" carried out by this man and two accomplices with the hammer, it was alleged, all launched from a silver Ford Granada.

Identities of those allegedly responsible could not be disclosed, he said, but the subject of a later case, counsel said.

He went on: "These attacks became known in the neighbourhood to the Asian community and formed the basis of the racial hostility which the Duke of Edinburgh as some-how the fount of the hostility to which they had been subjected to that day."

A group was organised to attack the pub. By 8 pm a band of 50 strong was seen marching four abreast towards it.

One police officer "saw youths dropping bottles, metal bars and other similar items. He saw bats, tools, and a brick being carried. When he tried to stop them he was pushed aside."

There followed what Mr Kallisher called the climax to the mounting spiral of inter-racial violence that day — a "battle" outside the pub involving the throwing of bricks, bottles, stones, bats, iron bars, tools.

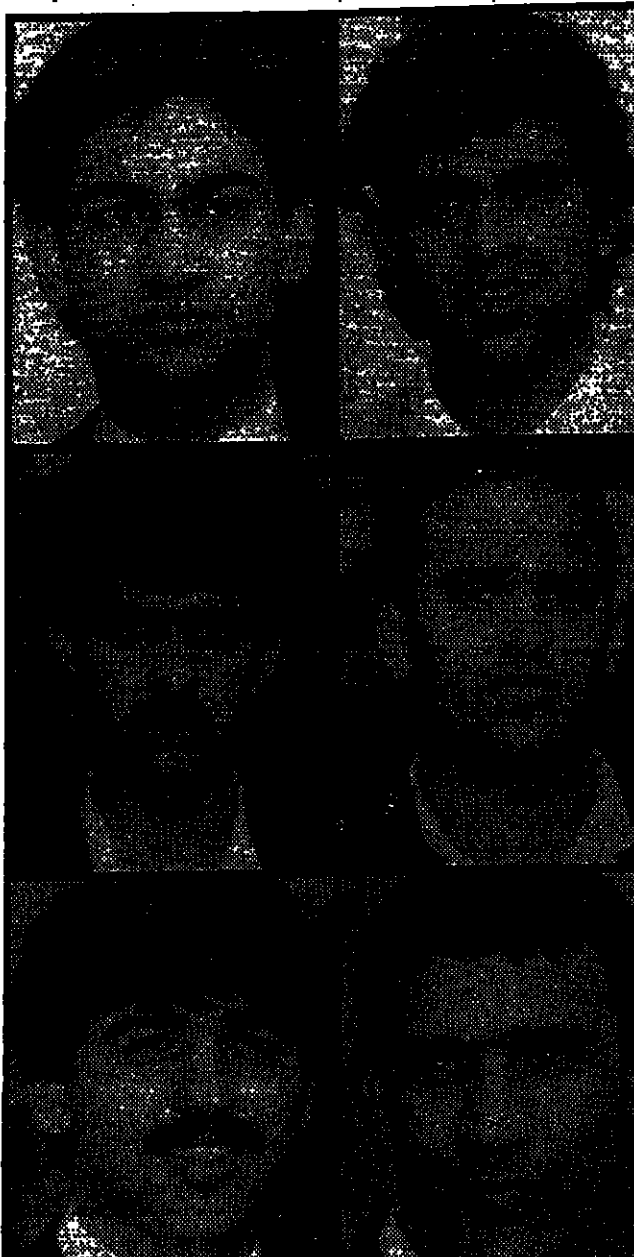
The seven Asians, who deny charges including criminal damage, affray, conspiracy to commit criminal damage and possessing offensive weapons, are Mohammed Hanif, aged 18, Bahadur Kahn, aged 22, Zafar Kahn, aged 18, Farwas Kahn, aged 17, Amjad Ali, aged 21, Jothi Rajappan, aged 17, and Aftab Chaudri, aged 19.

The three whites are Roy Lellow, aged 26, Robert Lellow, aged 21, and Stuart Young, aged 21, of whom all are charged with common assault and the Lellow brothers also with affray.

Parvas Kahn, was not in court yesterday.

He left the dock on Wednesday with two black eyes and a badly swollen face for treatment in hospital, after allegations that he had been beaten up by prison officers during the lunch adjournment for allegedly refusing to eat a pork pie.

The trial continues.



Six in court: Clockwise from top left. Amjad Ali, Jothi Rajappan, Bahadur Kahn, Aftab Chaudri, Mohammed Hanif, Zafar Kahn.

dragged into the car, where he was further assaulted with the weapon, and taken to Wandstead Flats where he was dumped in a ditch. The attacks only ceased when the whites were disturbed by a passer-by. Meanwhile, a Mercedes car carrying three Asians was set on by a group allegedly from the Duke of Edinburgh. Its windows were broken in the attack. The three white defendants are said to have taken part in this attack.

Mr Kallisher said that Stuart Young later boasted that he "knew" the whites were carrying out the attack. He had a "go" at the Asians, who had attacked his brother, Mr Kallisher said.

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Judge rewards 6 who foiled robbers

A "ruthless and violent" raid on a building society was foiled by the "courage and determination" of a most extraordinary kind by members of the public and police, an Old Bailey judge heard yesterday.

Mr John Nutting, prosecuting, told Mr Justice Otton that the two robbers were chased and arrested despite one of them, Christopher Hague, aged 35, firing an automatic pistol.

The judge hailed Hague, of Ray, Middlesex, for 15 years and Mark Raczynski, aged 24, of Oxford, Middlesex, for 10 years after both men had pleaded guilty to the robbery and to wounding with intent to resist lawful apprehension.

Hague also admitted having an automatic pistol with intent to endanger life and possessing the firearm whilst prohibited. Both further admitted using an automatic pistol with intent to resist their lawful arrest or detention, and using a separate automatic pistol for the same purpose.

In addition, both men admitted escaping from custody three days later, and an assault causing harm on the same day.

Mr Justice Otton said it was only good fortune that no one had been killed or maimed. "This level of violence cannot be tolerated in a sophisticated society, especially where police are unarmed and expected to come face to face with desperate thugs such as you," he said.

The judge made a number of awards to members of the public who attempted to apprehend the robbers or who came to the assistance of police.

Mr George Davey, aged 30, of Stanmore, Middlesex, who fought the robbers when they attempted to escape with some £13,000 from the Abbey National in Stanmore on October 1 last year, and who was shot in the thigh by Hague, was awarded £500.

Mr Terry Tompkins, aged 28, was awarded £350 and Mrs Jean Wakefield-Smith, aged 50, of Bushey Heath, who wrestled a pistol from Hague's hand while he fought police on the ground, received £200.

Three other people who took part in the chase, Mr Peter Oliver, aged 26, Mr Hugh Doherty, aged 70, and Mr Raymond Saunders, aged 39, were each awarded £100.

The judge said that PC Stephen Horswood, aged 20, and PC Stephen Jones, aged 26, who were repeatedly shot at before they were able to arrest the robbers, did not qualify for any monetary award. But he recommended in the "strongest terms" that their outstanding bravery be entered on their service records.

Both men were in the cells at Harrow police station when Raczynski asked to go to a separate cell. When a police sergeant opened the cell door Raczynski attacked him, said Mr Nutting.

"Raczynski hit him in the face and both he and Hague began punching the officer. Hague got a brownie stick from outside the cell and belatedly the sergeant over the head until he became unconscious."

Raczynski seized the keys and both men fled after locking the officer in the cell.

The two men were not re-arrested until January 14, when armed police officers made an early morning raid on a house in Slough.

Hague was jailed at the Old Bailey in 1983 on charges including five armed robberies, breaking out of Ashford remand centre, and using a firearm with intent to resist arrest and burglary.

Raczynski was a Royal Marine from 1977 to 1983, but he bought himself out because he "lacked satisfaction," he told police. He worked as a chauffeur but was unemployed at the time of his arrest.

At the end of the two-day hearing yesterday, Mr Justice Skimmer told the court in Birmingham that he would not deliver judgment until June.

The Express and Star claims that the order made by Mr Justice Hodgson in March has been broken by the NGA at four companies in a covert blacking campaign organised by officials of the union.

Mr James Gaudie QC, representing the NGA, said yesterday "The union is not liable for actions taken contrary to its express instruction and stated policy."

But Mr Malcolm Lee QC, for the Express and Star, said: "The picture that emerges is of a task force in the West Midlands for the purpose of carrying on this dispute at the plaintiffs' premises."

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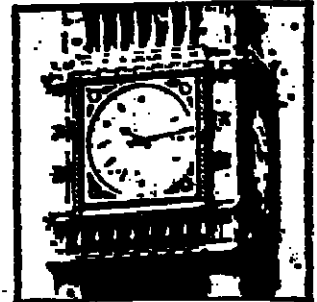
Mr James Gaudie QC, representing the NGA, said yesterday "The union is not liable for actions taken contrary to its express instruction and stated policy."

But Mr Malcolm Lee QC, for the Express and Star, said: "The picture that emerges is of a task force in the West Midlands for the purpose of carrying on this dispute at the plaintiffs' premises."

At the end of the two-day hearing yesterday, Mr Justice Skimmer told the court in Birmingham that he would not deliver judgment until June.

The Express and Star claims that the order made by Mr Justice Hodgson in March has been broken by the NGA at four companies in a covert blacking campaign organised by officials of the union.

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David McKie

What old peers prefer to forget

THE celebrations which began across the river at County Hall when the Government's majority was cut to four in a Lords debate on the Local Government Bill, must have been decidedly muted by last night as the bill completed its Lords journey, essentially unaltered.

The Government were defeated four times and surrendered on the old consequential provisions, but hopes that the Lords would sink the bill as they did the Paving Bill before it, were disappointed. It still looks likely to reach the statute book, thus killing off the L.C. and the six metropolitan counties, in the autumn.

Indeed, the bill's lasting memorial may be rather different. It may be remembered as the point at which the pressure for a televised Parliament finally became irresistible. During these past three weeks previously sceptical peers have learned, if not to love the cameras, at least to live happily with them; while unexpected members outside, opinion polls tell us, are learning to love the Lords. And the Commons, predictably, are getting jealous.

It's not just the glamour that people like. They also increasingly think that the Lords are a sound democratic body. That is much more debatable.

The Government has lost four votes in 19 on this bill; far more than Lord Hailsham's evercast favourite, Lord Denham, would like. But that hardly compares with the damage the Lords have done to Labour governments in the past.

In 26 working days in the summer of 1978, for example, the Lords defeated the Wilson government 52 times, 24

times on the Community Land Bill alone. This Government still wins far more than it loses: Labour, at this stage, never won anything.

But even the modest challenges in the Local Government Bill Committee have been too much for some Conservative peers. Lord Home of the Elms, an ever-courteous elderly statesman, put the complaint most forcibly on May 13. The House was debating an amendment to create joint authorities to look after the police, the fire, and waste disposal services.

But that, said Lord Home — speaking, as he was subsequently reminded, with all the authority of a former Prime Minister — was through the Commons and the Lords second reading the principles enshrined in it were sacrosanct. "I have said in the House of Lords for many years," he said, "and I can say categorically that during all that time amendments calculated to alter the kernel of a bill were by common consent never moved."

Which seems odd, when you recall that in November 1978 the Lords cut the nationalisation of ship repair companies out of Labour's Aerospace Bill, and then stuck to their guns even when the Commons declared the change was unacceptable. What did Lord Home of the Elms, speaking with all the authority of a former Prime Minister, have to say about that? Nothing; but he voted for it.

Then there was the collapse of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, which foundered after the Lords had insisted that amendments designed to protect press freedom should be written into it. It had to be brought back next session under the Parliament Act, and even then, further attempts were made to write crucial amendments into it.

Lord Carrington, then Conservative Leader, in the Lords, and Lord Hailsham, speaking with all the authority of a former Lord Chancellor, denied this amounted to a constitutional crisis. Everyone, said Lord Carrington, knew the rules. The Parliament Act was there to put a term on the threat at this stage which Lord Home purported to perceive. The cameras, certainly, have improved the place; but they have not yet hunted out its double standards.

Politics, page 6

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Finns let fans leave

NEARLY all the 98 England football fans arrested during disturbances before and after Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Finland were released yesterday, writes David Fields from Helsinki.

Police in Helsinki were preparing to charge two or three with minor assaults, and in an unrelated incident an Englishman was fined for shoplifting. Four more are suspected of robbing a pursers' office while travelling by boat from Sweden.

Windows were smashed, a police inspector was hit by a stone, and a flick knife and gas bomb were picked up during three scuffles near the ground, but there was little of the type of hooliganism which has tainted British soccer elsewhere in Europe. One Finnish eyewitness claimed that many innocent bystanders had been detained.

Man with dummy gun arrested

A MAN with an imitation gun and hand grenade was arrested yesterday outside a community centre in Wolverhampton after a visit by the Princess of Wales.

Thousands of people were gathered outside the Crypt Community Centre when Juan James, aged 41, was spotted, and police alerted said that West Midlands chief constable, Mr Geoffrey Dear, Mr James, from nearby Wednesfield — said to be an eccentric — was released later.

750 Americans for cruise base

RESIDENTS living near the proposed cruise missile base at Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, have been told that 750 American personnel will man the base when it becomes operational in 1988.

The figures were revealed at a public meeting staged on Wednesday night by the Ministry of Defence, the Government's Property Services Agency, and local authorities. Most of the personnel will be housed at the nearby cruise support base at USAF Alconbury.

Too much spent by postal union

THE Union of Communication Workers, representing 190,000 post and telephone workers, overspent by £500,000 last year, union officials disclosed yesterday.

But an attempt at the union's conference at Bourne-mouth to censure its executive council for its handling of the union's financial affairs was overwhelmingly defeated.

NCB is warned to stay within closure agreement

By John Arlill, Labour Correspondent

The British Association of Colliery Management warned the National Coal Board yesterday that it must stay within agreed consultation procedures for the closure of pits.

The warning came from the president, Mr David Patterson, as leaders of the deputies union Nacods met the Evening Standard yesterday.

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proving" the colliery review procedure.

He said Mr Walker had not asked the union to suspend its action while talks took place, and it had no plans to do so. The overtime ban was solid: "members are being the executive to the belt."

Mr Patterson told the BACM conference in Scarborough that unilateral action by the board at pits under closure threat would undermine the efforts of managers to restore relationships in the industry.

To regain the trust destroyed during the miners' strike, the board must demonstrate "that they are not in the business of butchery."

His members were trying to rebuild bridges and this task "must exclude any vindictiveness," he said. The reaction of management — and all other parties — should be firm and fair but not punitive.

He added: "Of course, a number of collieries may require to be considered for closure — but only after use of the proper procedures. Whatever retrenchment takes place must be sensible and not excessive."

The Government's policy on the sudden arrival of Tamils over the past three weeks is to consider individual cases on their merits, said the Home Office.

The Home Office disclosed last weekend that between July 1983 and last December, 700 applications for asylum had been received from Tamils. Four hundred and fifty were outstanding, 170 had been refused but given temporary admission, 28 had been given exceptional leave to remain.

Mr Sinnappu Mahaling

HOME NEWS

THE GUARDIAN Friday May 24 1985 3

American flavour to the Proms

By Tom Sutcliffe

THE BBC yesterday unveiled the summer season of Promenade Concerts, the 51st in the Henry Wood series and the last devised by Mr Robert Ponsonby before his retirement as Controller of Music. Next year Mr John Drummond, formerly director of the Edinburgh Festival, succeeds him as the BBC's impresario.

The predominant flavour this year is American. This is the fourth year that part of the programming has followed a national theme. The US was chosen because Mr Ponsonby said he had "an uneasy feeling that it wasn't getting sufficient attention."

There are four works each by Ives and Gershwin, three by Copland, and two, including a world premiere, by Carter. Other American names include Bernstein, Barber, Roger Sessions, Steve Reich, Ruggles, Schuman and Sousa. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel play a pair of concertos including, inevitably, Dvorak's Symphony from the New World on August 24.

Last year's proms took £734,000 at the box office, 2 per cent ahead of budget, and sold out over half the events. Mr Ponsonby invited American visitors to endorse his artistic innovation of including almost as many American as British pieces by helping to improve on last year's attendance record.

Mr Ponsonby cited among this year's highlights the Glyndebourne Carmen on August 15 and Mahler's Song of the Earth, with Jessye Norman and Jon Vickers, and the City of Birmingham orchestra.



Enter the oarsmen

ROWERS have been out on the river Avon at Evesham, getting into shape for next month's Hong Kong International dragon boat races.

The rowers are all members of clubs in the West Midlands and this year will be the fourth time a British team has taken part.

Their captain, Mr Pete Thomson, said: "We have high hopes this year. We are working very hard to increase our strokes." The official boat — with its dragon head, left — was shipped from Hong Kong to allow practice before the team flies out. Pictures by Michael Charity

Inspectors warn that repairs will soon be impossible

Grim future for pupils as English schools crumble under cash cuts

By David Hearn

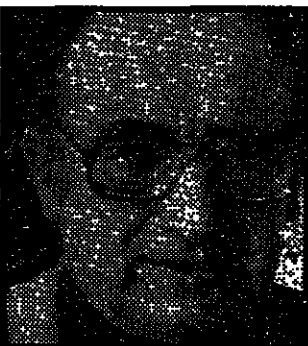
The crumbling state of schools in England is seriously affecting the quality of pupils' work, a report by the Government's school inspectors revealed yesterday. They said that some schools are so bad that repairs will soon become impossible.

The report, by HM Inspectors, said that nothing had been done for four years to improve building stock significantly. Many of the country's 26,000 schools were in a sorry state of repair, and were getting worse.

They concluded: "The replacement value of the country's school buildings is estimated to be £17.5 billion. The continued neglect of the school building stock is not only storing up potentially enormous problems for the future, but is also seriously affecting the quality of work and achievement of many pupils, and providing a grim environment for them and their teachers."

The conclusions amount to the most forthright condemnation yet from an official source of the effects of the Government's public spending cuts on the education service. It is the first time that the inspectors, which has a statutory duty to assess the maintenance of educational standards, has clearly linked cuts in public spending to the quality of education. The inspectors' views are in open contradiction to those of Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary.

The report's main finding said: "Good teaching can be neither nurtured nor sustained where resources are inadequate in quality and quantity; where rooms are shabby and in need of repair; where the reports of development and in-service training is insufficient" calling for more resources, "better school management and use of in-service training, the report said that without more money teachers would not be able to institute the national programme of curriculum and examination reform outlined by Sir Keith last year.



Fred Jarvis: 'still deteriorating'



Fred Smithies: 'inadequate resourcing'

The inspectors, who visited 1,540 schools last year, said that one third of the bad classes they saw were adversely affected by the physical state of the school. In one unidentified education authority 33 schools had not been decorated inside for 14 years.

The report said that in many cases pupils were cramped in rooms where rotting window frames, cracked walls, and flaking plaster "made their education grim and dispiriting."

Overall, conditions were judged "less than satisfactory or poor" in 57 out of 97 local education authorities. The inspectors said that the make-do-and-mend policy to repair work was "no longer good enough. The report quoted one shire authority which said it needed to spend £32.5 million

to clear the backlog of work, and £15.3 million of this was classed as essential spending. Lack of money for books was highlighted in the report. In half the education authorities funds for library services were not considered sufficient to maintain present levels of support for schools. In 13 per cent of the 950 lessons inspected last year in secondary schools, the quality of work was affected by the shortage of school books.

In one junior class inspectors found children using a history text book published in 1953, and atlases which were so out of date that little more than the outline of continents remained accurate.

The report also commented on the growing dependence of schools on contributions from parents. In primary schools parents gave anything from £800 to £3,250, and in secondary schools they gave anything from £100 to £20,000 a year.

The inspectors said that staffing levels were adequate, but teacher shortages still existed in certain subjects. Mr Giles Radice, Labour chief spokesman on education, said: "This report is a sweeping indictment of Sir Keith's policies by his own advisers. It shows that England's schools are falling to bits, and that our children's education is suffering as a result of too little spending. Sir Keith must change course, or resign."

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the report presented a picture of schools which were squalid, over-preserved, riddled with inequalities, and still deteriorating. "The underlying message of the report is that education needs more money than it now receives, and much more than it will be getting when rate-capping takes effect. Anyone less insensitive than Sir Keith would acknowledge the clear link between the level of resources and the quality of education," he said.

Mrs Margaret Morgan, chairman of the development sub-committee of the Inner London Education Authority, said the ILEA was discouraged by the Government from trying to modernise schools or replace them. The report's findings portrayed a scandalous situation, said Mr Peter Smith, deputy general secretary of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association. The Government had embarked on a massive programme of disinvestment, he said, and added: "I do not see how Sir Keith can marry up his vision of the promised land in terms of raising educational standards with the reality of the facts."

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said the report "reinforces the message that the quality of education is seriously threatened by inadequate resourcing."

Report by HM Inspectors on the Effects of Local Authority Expenditure Policies on Education Provision in England, 1984, Department of Education and Science.

Jenkin rejects wildlife protection suggestions from MPs' committee

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture correspondent

The Government yesterday rejected most of the recommendations of a Commons select committee on improving the effectiveness of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, claiming that they are unnecessary or impracticable.

A white paper on its response to the committee's 18 recommendations accepted only four of them. Two of these aimed at plugging loopholes in the 1981 act, already part of the Wildlife and Countryside Amendment Bill, which is going through the Commons under the sponsorship of Dr David Clark, the Labour MP, for South Shields.

In particular, the Government rejected the suggestion

that it should publish another white paper to provide a clear policy on the future relationship between conservation and farming.

It said that there was no need to strengthen the conservationist arm of the Ministry of Agriculture, since this is now seen as "a major part of the ministry's overall responsibilities in pursuing a fair and balanced approach."

Dr Clark said last night that the Government's response was "so inept that they must be convulsing at the destruction of the countryside."

He went on: "This Government has the worst reputation of any since the war in matters relating to the countryside. This response consists of fine words, and no action."

Commenting on the Government's response in a written Commons reply, yesterday Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, told MPs that although the select committee had expressed doubts about the sufficiency of the voluntary approach to protecting the countryside, he was glad that it had come out against mandatory planning controls in general.

He promised that his department would pursue a continuation of the voluntary policy "with vigour."

The white paper pays renewed tribute to the advantages of a voluntary approach to conservation.

Operation and Effectiveness of Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Government reply to first report from Environment Committee Stationery Office, price £1.80.

Anger over Hackney rate setting

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

Six leftwing members of Hackney council were last night seriously considering resignation from positions on the council in disgust after its 10-week battle of demonstrations and High Court hearings ended with the setting of a rate inside the legal limit.

After a meeting which lasted into the early hours of yesterday morning, the six — the leader, Ms Hilda Kean, her deputy, Mr Andrew Puddephatt, three chairmen and a vice-chairman — were last night talking to local party officials before taking a decision.

The setting of the Hackney rate, which may prove to be the first crack in the front of opposition among the six London boroughs who have still not set one, came after an earlier meeting on Tuesday had been broken up by a rowdy invasion of the council chamber.

But Southwark, which had been expected to crack before Hackney, was still split yesterday after its ninth attempt to set a rate had failed on a 21-10 vote.

With the London district auditor still poised to take action against any councils who have not set a rate by the end of this month, Greenwich and Camden are planning further meetings, on May 29 and 31 respectively. But Camden and Lambeth are not intending to meet before June 6.

Court 'interfered' with handling of Jasmine case

By Sarah Bosley

A court recommendation that Jasmine and Louise Beckford should be rehabilitated with their parents interfered with their case impartially while the children were in foster care, an inquiry into Jasmine's death heard yesterday.

The sisters had been placed with foster parents in September 1981 after Louise's father, Maurice Beckford, had been convicted of assaulting her. There were also injuries to Jasmine.

Two years later Jasmine died of a severe beating. Beckford was jailed for 10 years for her manslaughter. Her mother, Beverley Lorrington, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for wilful neglect.

When Willesden magistrates' court made a care order on the children in 1981 it strongly

recommended that the parents should have weekly access with a view to eventual rehabilitation.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC, chairman of the public inquiry, asked Mr Richard Bond, counsel for Miss Gun Wahstrom and Mr David Bishop, two of Brent's social workers on the case, whether the court order was very much influenced events.

After a discussion with his clients Mr Bond replied that rehabilitation was considered as an option "as a matter of good practice" before the order was granted on September 9, "but all those concerned were pessimistic as to whether it could be achieved."

After the recommendation there were difficulties. The comments had been made in the presence of the parents, which gave them "additional motivation to seek early revocation of the care order." The inquiry continues.

Pupils' pledge to court

Twelve schoolchildren aged 14 to 16 were bound over for 12 months by magistrates in Kirkby, Merseyside, yesterday, after going on the rampage in a protest organised by outsiders.

They were charged with various offences, including using threatening behaviour, assaulting police, and possessing of offensive weapons.

Mr David Kilner, prosecuting, said that police agreed not to proceed with the charges if those arrested agreed to be bound over to keep the peace.

"It is a case of pupils being manipulated by others," he said.

The situation having been orchestrated by people who aren't before the court, justice would be met by binding over. All of them were bound over in the sum of £50.

The arrests were made on April 18 and 19 in Kirkby. Three other pupils, two accused of obstruction and one of using obscene language, pleaded not guilty and will appear before a special court on June 27.

Stonehenge festival arrests warning

By Paul Keel

WILTSHIRE Police issued a firm warning yesterday to anyone thinking of attending the proposed free festival at Stonehenge next month to stay away.

The National Trust, which administers the 4,500-year-old monument, has been granted 42 court orders against named individuals banning them from holding the festival, now in its eleventh year.

Mr Donald Smith, the Chief Constable of Wiltshire, said yesterday that he would have 400 officers on standby, and assistance would be available from neighbouring police forces.

"I am saying to anyone who has any intention of going to the festival this year to stay away. There will not be a festival," he said.

Barbed wire barricades have been put up around the

stones and the two fields usually used as camp sites by those attending the festival. There were 30,000 last year.

Any campers heading for the site would be stopped and asked not to continue.

A press release from Polytechnic Circle, an anonymous group claiming to be involved in the festival, insisted yesterday that it would go ahead.

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WOOLWICH
EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY

Figures can be announced
at branch level, judge told

TGWU offers new formula on ballot results

By Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

A new procedure for announcing the results of the election for the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union was presented in the High Court yesterday by the union's counsel to prevent legal wrangling over conduct of the current election.

The procedure was submitted by Mr Justice Vinelott, QC, during a case in which a TGWU member is pressing for general disclosure of branch results from both last year's spoiled election and the current poll.

Mr Tabachnik told Mr Justice Vinelott that the union was prepared to offer an undertaking that each of the 9,000 branches voting in the re-run election would have its ballot results announced at a branch meeting. The TGWU is resisting claims by Mr Declan Hughes, a Kent farmworker, that members are entitled to voting figures from branches other than their own.

The union later offered to add to its undertaking by including provisions for branches to be notified if any changes to the voting figures are made after checks at regional and national level. It also proposed that ballot boxes which had already been sent to regional offices under the union's usual practice can be recalled to branches so that results can be declared at branch meetings on June 9 or 9.

Both sides were considering the position overnight and the court will hear the outcome today. The judge said it seemed that they were very near agreement on a procedure which was likely to produce a fair and democratically conducted election, short of a secret postal ballot conducted by some outside body.

The judge explained that, whatever had been done in the past, the union's rules provided for voting and counting of votes at branch level. He agreed that this would still be the case, and Mr Hughes' right to have

access to ballot results throughout the union. By today it might be possible to work out some agreement on that question.

Mr Hughes said later that he would be discussing the union's offer with his lawyers. "They could do a lot more. They would not have gone this far if I had not brought them to court. It's up to a union to look after its members, not for the members to chase the general secretary. They have treated me very arrogantly. I think their image of an agricultural worker must be someone wearing a smock with a fork in his mouth. But I will carry on this fight as long as it takes."

Mr Moss Evans, the union's general secretary, who has been in court, said that counsel's opinion was that the TGWU's rules provided for a count at branch level and the union had decided to comply. He maintained that the TGWU had taken stringent steps to make sure that the ballot was fair and democratic. There was no question but that all necessary checks had been introduced into the system. "We want to make sure that whatever is elected has the full confidence of the membership in a properly run ballot."

Mr Tabachnik had told the court that the TGWU's offer would give Mr Hughes all he was entitled to under the rules. His claim for the right to see branch voting results collected by the union's regional offices was "not on."

The union is also resisting Mr Hughes' claim for an injunction effectively putting a block on the current election until he has been guaranteed access to the information he seeks.

For Mr Hughes, Mr Simon Goldblatt, QC, said that on a sensible reading of the TGWU's rules Mr Hughes was entitled to all the information.

The current re-ballot is now ending its second week. The two candidates are Mr Ron Todd, general secretary-elect, and Mr George Wright, the union's Welsh secretary.

Labour gives Alliance taste of rural power

A tactical coalition has put the Tories out to grass in Wiltshire. Dennis Johnson reports on the county's new masters

THE LEADER of the 17-strong Labour group on Wiltshire County Council, Mrs Mary Salisbury, was half asleep when she answered a 7am telephone call at her home in Melksham. The message woke her up fast.

"I couldn't believe it," she said, "a leading Conservative councillor whose views I totally reject was telling me Labour had more in common with Conservatives than with the Alliance and asking us to support a Tory administration."

"I passed the message to the Labour group when we were deciding what to do about the hung council. It was like watching those tin men in that potato smash advert — they all fell about laughing."

Politically, however, the move was salutary. It focused attention on the great prize that lay within Labour's grasp: to bring Tory rule in Wiltshire to a sudden end. Could the Labour group, without breaching national instructions against pacts and arrangements, bring itself to compromise with the Alliance and seize the prize?

At the council's annual meeting in Trowbridge yesterday, Labour voted for Alliance chairmen of all the main committees. The 25 Alliance councillors — 17 Liberals and eight SDP — thus began an administration while the 30 Conservatives, still the largest party, sat glumly in the wilderness.

Mrs Salisbury denies that there is any pact, but says there is nothing in the Alliance manifestos with which she would disagree.

"I've been on the council for nearly 30 years and I would have loved a committee chairmanship at last," she says. "But it couldn't be. I should be there only as a favour, a patronage. There are people in my group who are against having anything to do with the Alliance and others who actually wanted chairmanships. I said, 'Tough, I think in the end everyone agreed, but there could be some internal trouble as time goes on.'"

The new administration depends largely on the mutual political respect of Mrs Salisbury and Mr Jack Ainslie, the Liberal farmer from Mildenhall, Marlborough, who leads the Alliance and was elected yesterday as chairman of the council.

Within minutes of taking office he was readily accepting Labour amendments to beef up two relatively weak sections he had moved on the closure of British Rail

engineering at Swindon and teachers' pay. Even some Conservatives voted to stop the Swindon closure. Mr Ainslie, a councillor for 21 years, has had his work cut out stiffening the backs of his inexperienced group, who suddenly found themselves contemplating power and shouldering responsibility for 15 major committees.

He says: "I told them, 'Look, this is a high risk business. We have a hell of a job to do. Are you prepared to go through with it, have you got cold feet? If so, you'd better say so now before it is too late, because the train is leaving the station.' The result was a unanimous vote in favour of taking control."

Mr Ainslie says that the council's chief executive, Mr Andrew Browning, has accepted that three-party government may have come to

stay and has offered to see that affairs run smoothly. "I don't know what the far right-wing Tories will do. They've been very quiet, stunned. They may try to cause some disruption of work and make life difficult for inexperienced chairmen."

No more than a handful of Tories replied — and those negatively — to a letter from Mr Ainslie claiming that the spread of votes in the county elections showed that the public wanted a broadly based administration centred round the Alliance and inviting their support.

The Tory group has been factionalised for several years and the shock of defeat may deepen divisions. But Mr Ainslie accepts that his rule will be challenged with renewed ferocity when budget time comes round again and spending targets

have to be exceeded by millions of pounds just to keep services at present levels. Mrs Salisbury, sharing the Alliance commitment to improve services, particularly education, and meet the teachers' pay award, says there will be no political winners in that war.

All but three of her group represent seats in the Transdown (Swindon) area, with its insatiable thirst for social investment.

But some of the subtlest shocks may come in unexpected quarters. The Alliance and Labour consider that the police have done well — possibly too well — in the final climate — out of Tory rule. "They've waited for nothing," Mrs Salisbury says.

The county police authority — 14 councillors and seven magistrates — may be asking the police to bear a heavier share of the burden.

Football fire inquiry 'will not be a trial'

By Malcolm Pithers

The judicial inquiry into the Bradford Football Club fire and sports grounds safety began yesterday with Mr Justice Popplewell emphasising that it would not be a "white-wash or witch hunt."

The judge held a brief preliminary hearing in Bradford City Council chamber to announce the procedure and representation for the main hearing due to begin in Bradford on June 5.

He allowed all the interested groups to be legally represented at the inquiry with the exception of Bradford City Council. He also insisted that West Yorkshire County Council should have one and not two legal representatives.

He allowed the Police Federation, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Mr Colin Sampson, the club, the relatives of the dead to be represented. Anyone else wishing to make written submissions can do so within a four-week time limit.

After the hearing Bradford City Council's assistant city solicitor, Mr Anthony Kliner, said it would be considering appealing to the judge about his decision but this would depend on whether council officers were called.

He said he was surprised by the decision but felt that at the moment the judge may not have been aware of the council's role in relation to various aspects.

Mr Justice Popplewell made it clear yesterday that he wanted a streamlined inquiry which would not waste time or money.

He said his terms of reference were to inquire into the Bradford fire and the wall collapse at Birmingham, and also into the operation of the Safety of Sports grounds Acts of 1975 and to recommend any steps necessary to improve crowd safety and control.

He said he would adopt what Lord Scarman said at the Brixton inquiry, that it was not litigation.

"The inquiry is not a substitute for the ordinary legal process of criminal or civil trial; it is neither a whitewash nor a witch hunt."

He said he had no power to compel witnesses to attend nor to require them to answer particular questions. In the light of what had happened, he was sure that the fullest co-operation of all concerned could be taken for granted.

The inquiry will probably last for three weeks, or slightly over 10 working days, with evidence being given first from members of the public followed by the police, fire brigade, local authority and, finally, the football club.



Mr Justice Popplewell — no representation for Bradford council

Bosses 'in plot to oust stewards'

By John Ardill,
Labour Correspondent

The right-wing Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union last night accused some engineering employers of conspiring with left-wing moves to oust its shop stewards from joint negotiating bodies.

The general secretary, Mr Eric Hammond, said that stewards had been purged as part of a campaign against the union's insistence on pre-strike ballots.

A union spokesman said the purges had been carried out at three British Aerospace factories and a GEC plant in Lancashire and a Smith's Industries plant at Cheltenham, and there were one or two other cases which were the subject of "delicate" negotiations. He refused to put the blame on any specific union.

Mr Hammond told personnel executives at an Engineering Employers' Federation dinner: "There are strong indications of left-inspired campaign, not merely to discredit us for holding ballots but to use the tactics of industrial thuggery at local level against our representatives over out-standings on balloting prior to taking industrial action."

"Decent EEFU shop stewards with years of service to the trade union movement have been purged from joint union negotiating committees. What is perhaps more reprehensible is the ill-considered attitude of certain management, which has tamely accepted the situation, continued to negotiate with other unions, and effectively killed off our representatives. They are making a serious mistake. We will not go quietly away in such circumstances. We will fight for our rights."

It was extraordinary that managements were ready to "connive at such leftwing tactics, to tacitly assist in defying the law and to undermine the efforts of those moderate trade unionists who believe in cooperation rather than conflict. The EEF and BAE declined to comment on Mr Hammond's remarks."

Mr Eric Hammond — "We will fight"

Top risk prisoner dispersal may end

By Aileen Ballantyne

The Home Office will shortly announce a scheme to concentrate the country's most dangerous criminals in specially-designed prisons, Mr John Bartlett, told the Prison Officers' Association annual conference yesterday.

Mr Bartlett, the association's vice-chairman, described the intended scheme as a threat to the safety of prisoners, and an example of the Home Office's "balance sheet mentality."

According to Mr Bartlett, the scheme follows the work of a control review committee which was set up by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary to examine a series of riots and disturbances in prison. The association discussed the issue with the committee during the course of its investigation.

At present the prison service operates a dispersal system with the 300 to 400 Category A prisoners — classified as having the highest security escape risk — housed in jails in England and Wales.

The dispersal goals hold high risk inmates and a variety of other prisoners with lower security classifications. Concentration of escape prone prisoners was recommended in the 1980s by the Mountbatten inquiry set up after the "springing" of the Soviet spy George Blake from prison.

Mountbatten wanted one Alcatraz-style maximum security on the Isle of Wight to hold all the maximum risk inmates and two subsequent official committees overturned this idea.

Mr Bartlett told delegates at the Portsmouth conference that about a third of Category A prisoners posed "severe allocation problems."

Another third were convicted terrorists and he believed that placing them together would pose unprecedented security problems.

He went on: "This had been the experience of Northern Ireland and there are obvious arguments against wittingly running the same risks here."

"The Maze prison had the highest concentration of high risk prisoners in Europe. Recently, 38 prisoners escaped from there and a prison officer was brutally murdered."

Mr Bartlett claimed that review committees argued that it is too expensive to run eight jails at the highest level of security.

He asked: "Could it be that balance sheet mentality is at work here? Could it be that stability of the prison system is about to be sacrificed on the altar of cash limits?"

The association had recently sent its representatives to the United States to carry out a similar study to the review committee into the handling of high security risk inmates.

Mr Bartlett claimed that the committee had not told the association that prisoners who did not behave in the newly designed US prisons faced the alternative of incarceration in a prison where they did not leave their cell until they were wearing hand cuffs and leg irons.

On the related question of dealing with disruptive and violent prisoners, Mr Bartlett claimed that the Home Office would suggest holding them in special units in local prisons designed to take Category A prisoners.

The association's fears that once high risk and disruptive prisoners have been removed from the system, staffing levels may be cut, was refuted by the vice-chairman's remarks on Maidstone, Kent, jail.

Mr Bartlett said that there was an experimental regime for specially selected prisoners at Manning levels where it was "not unusual for as many as 70 to 90 prisoners to be supervised by only three officers."

He pointed out that these prisoners had access to their landings, cells, and recreation rooms. In one year, Mr Bartlett said, there had been about 800 reported disciplinary offences.

He told delegates that violence against staff was on the increase, there was a drink and drugs problem at the jail, and a recent "black escape" had clearly been aided by the system operating at the jail.

Leader, comment, page 14

British TELECOM Information for Shareholders

If you are one of almost 1,750,000 people who have shares in British Telecom you are probably aware that the second instalment of 40p a share is due to be paid by 24th June 1985.

At the end of May the Government will send you a reminder about the instalment which tells you exactly how much you have to pay and how to do so.

If you think you will be away from home in June you can arrange to pay the second instalment now. To do so, you should write to Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA; they will tell you what to do.

The Stock Exchange price of BT's shares will be adjusted on 28th May to take into account the extra 40p you will be paying.*

If you are one of the individuals who bought shares in the flotation you became a founder shareholder. At that time you were able to apply for special benefits by way of either bill vouchers or the share bonus.

By paying the second instalment and remaining a shareholder until 25th June 1985 you will remain eligible for EITHER —

● Bill vouchers.

You will receive the following number of vouchers depending on how many shares you have held since the flotation —

200 shares — one voucher in July 1985 worth £18.

400 shares — two vouchers in July 1985 worth £36

800 shares — two vouchers in July 1985 worth £36 and (if you still hold these shares on 23rd December 1985) two more vouchers early next year also worth £36... OR —

● Share bonus.

To keep your entitlement to one free share for every ten shares bought at the time of flotation you must retain at least that number of shares until 30th November 1987, and pay the second and third instalments.

All shareholders are eligible for —

● Dividends.

The first dividend is expected to be 3.9p per share (net of tax) and will be payable in August 1985. So if you hold: —
200 shares you will receive £7.80.
400 shares you will receive £15.60.
800 shares you will receive £31.20.

An interim dividend for 1985-86 is also expected to be paid in February next year.

*From the end of May you will only be able to deal in BT's shares on the basis that the instalment has been paid.

NOTE: The bill vouchers and share bonus only apply if you bought shares in the initial offer of November 1984.

M40 protesters lose battle in High Court

Anti-juggernaut campaigners yesterday lost a battle in the High Court to halt construction of the M40 link between Oxford and Birmingham.

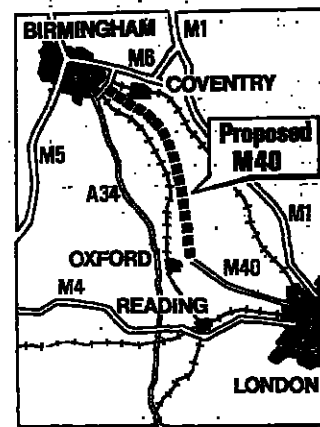
Mr Justice Farquharson, sitting in London, ruled that the transport and environment secretaries had acted lawfully in approving a £202 million scheme for the 50-mile Waterstock to Warwick section of motorway. He refused Miss Helen Anson, representing the Rail Roaders to the Ports Campaign, an order quashing the scheme.

Miss Anson had claimed that the Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, had failed to comply with their legal duty to give adequate reasons for rejecting alternative schemes.

Mr Justice Farquharson, sitting in London, ruled that the transport and environment secretaries had acted lawfully in approving a £202 million scheme for the 50-mile Waterstock to Warwick section of motorway. He refused Miss Helen Anson, representing the Rail Roaders to the Ports Campaign, an order quashing the scheme.

She had also joined with the Council for the Protection of Rural England in calling for the improvement of existing roads, including the M1, in order to make the new motorway unnecessary.

Refusing to quash the scheme, the judge said that



the ministers had not faced up to the inadequacy of the findings from the inquiry on the M1 widening proposals, but they had dealt adequately in their reasons with questions of policy.

No doubt the ministers could have been more helpful, and given a more careful analysis of their reasoning process, but they had fulfilled their duty to give reasons for their decisions under the regulations, the judge said.

The judge ordered Miss Anson to pay the ministers' legal costs, and she said later: "I was very disappointed with the judge's reasoning."

She said she would consider fighting on through an appeal against yesterday's decision.

Elizabethan relic lost

By Donald Wintress,
Arts Sales Correspondent

THE NATION has lost a curious relic of Queen Elizabeth I. It is a mock charter, probably drawn up by the Queen, which was used as a stage prop in a courtly entertainment. It is the only prop known to have survived from Elizabethan times.

The minister for the arts, Lord Gower, had put an embargo on the document's export so that a British public collection could match the \$39,166 at which it was to be sold abroad. If the price was matched the licence would be refused.

The British Library was interested, but could not afford it. Lord Gower's embargo expired at midnight on Wednesday.

Elizabeth I visited Theobalds, Hertfordshire, the home of her great statesman, Lord Burleigh, in 1591, and was his guest for 10 days. Among the events was a fanciful speech by a hermit, delivered to the Queen on Lord Burleigh's behalf. The hermit said he wanted to retire from public duties, and the mock charter granted his wish.

Extra nurses for 'low standard' hospital

By David Hencke, Social
Services Correspondent

Extra nursing staff are to be appointed to Mersey region's radiotherapy unit at Clatterbridge Hospital in the Wirral after the disclosure of a confidential report prepared by the Royal College of Nursing and giving warning of dangerously low nursing standards.

Wirral health authority has agreed to appoint an extra 14 nurses, bringing the nursing staff up to 93, so that patients will not face delays for cancer treatment. The centre treats nearly 5,000 patients from Cheshire, Merseyside, the Isle of Man and North Wales.

The RCN report warned that there was inadequate supervision at night of patients undergoing chemotherapy with highly toxic drugs, which can have serious side-effects such as kidney failure. It also voiced concern that ward closures at weekends, to save money, meant that seriously ill people were regularly moved from ward to ward.

The English National Board for Nursing had also ordered the hospital to withdraw its trainee nurses because it was

too badly staffed to provide proper training.

The health authority, has decided after the disclosure of the RCN report in the Guardian, to appoint extra staff.

A spokesman said: "In the past year Mersey regional health authority has made provision for an extra 400 patients to receive radiotherapy within the region, and waiting list times and numbers awaiting treatment have been cut to a third of what they were 18 months ago." The health authority is also considering reopening a ward closed at weekends.

Greenwich flats

An independent investigation into conditions at the Morris Walk housing estate in Greenwich has found that the buildings are structurally sound and not in danger of collapse, the council said yesterday.

The report, commissioned in collaboration with a tenants' action group, recommended major repairs and improvements which are to be carried out by Greenwich and the GLC, with tenants receiving temporary transfers.

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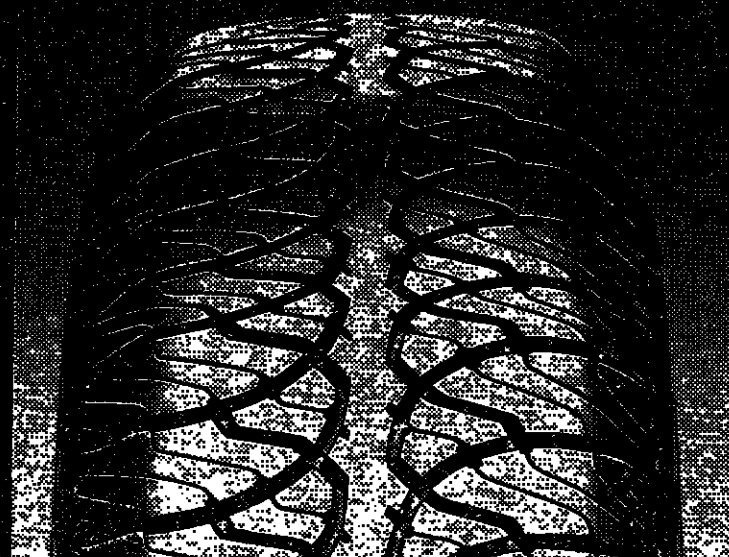
The Goodyear GT won't let you down even at motorway speeds.

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LEADING THE WORLD IN TYRE TECHNOLOGY

GOODYEAR

New poll gives Tories just 66 MPs

By Martin Linton

THE CONSERVATIVES would be left with a rump of only 66 MPs and the Alliance would be the second party with 253 seats in the House of Commons if the electorate followed their current voting intention in the Guardian-Marplan Index for May, according to the leading psephologist, Dr Gordon Reece.

The possibility of an electoral holocaust for the Government was first raised by Dr Reece in a pamphlet for the Conservative Association for Electoral Reform, in which he warned that Tory seats would begin to fall in huge numbers if the Alliance passed their "breakthrough" point of 33 or 34 per cent.

His figures were giving nightmares to Conservative MPs when they were only a theoretical possibility, but they have turned into a real

threat with the current crop of opinion polls, and particularly Marplan.

If the actual result of an election were the same as the latest Marplan poll results, Labour would be the biggest party in the Commons with 308 seats, still short of an overall majority, but the Alliance and the Conservatives would not be able to form an overall majority, either, if they combined.

If the result were the same as the Gallup Poll published in the Daily Telegraph last week, Labour would be in first place with 298 seats

and the Alliance would just nose ahead of the Conservative Party with 166 seats against 161.

If the result matched the Mori poll published in the Sunday Times, which put Labour in first place and the Conservatives second, Labour would have 310 seats, the Conservatives 271, and the Alliance 48.

What the figures show is not that the polls are very far apart — Marplan and Gallup are quite close — but that even small differences in shares of the vote can mean a huge difference in the number of seats that a

party wins around the crucial "breakthrough" level of the 33 to 35 per cent.

The difference between the Marplan poll and the Gallup poll is only 14 per cent for the Alliance and the Conservatives; but even that makes a difference of about 90 seats in both cases, according to the computer forecasting system which Dr Reece has devised at the University of Bristol.

The reason is that the Alliance wins seats very slowly until it reaches the breakthrough level of about a third of the votes. It then wins seats very much more

	MARPLAN**		GALLUP		MORI	
	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats
Conservative	29%	66	30½%	161	34%	271
Labour	35%	308	34%	298	36%	310
Alliance	35%	253	33½%	166	28%	46
Other	1%	6*	2%	8	2%	6

* excludes Northern Ireland

** all polls taken in week ending May 13

Labour warning to US firms over NHS hospitals

By our Political Staff

LABOUR'S health spokesman, Mr Frank Dobson, yesterday warned American companies contemplating taking over the management of NHS hospitals that the next Labour Government would "send them packing."

Mr Dobson asked the Prime Minister on Monday to confirm

that the Government was in discussion with American corporations with a view to a pilot scheme for a private sector takeover of the management of an NHS hospital.

Mr Dobson, speaking at a meeting in Ashford, Middlesex, said that by inviting the American commercial hospital corporations to take over NHS hos-

pitals the Prime Minister was inviting the "sworn enemies" of the health service to the top table.

"Such companies are not neutral managers of resources but are the vanguard units of the worldwide attack by American commercial interests on public health care both here and in other countries."

Mr Dobson warned the American companies, "Don't bank on the NHS as a long-term investment. The next Labour Government will send you packing back to the land of health profiteering."

He claimed that among recent cases in America was one in which a woman who had just had a baby was told

that the infant would not be released until her bill was paid in full.

The NHS was cheaper and more efficient than anything on offer in the commercial system in America. "In a same world Mrs Thatcher would be sending NHS administrators to help the Americans cut their costs," said Mr Dobson.

Queues used to control immigration—Kaufman

CRE REPORT

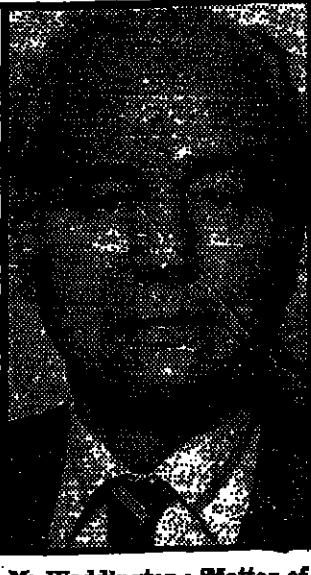
By Alan Travis

The Shadow Home Secretary, Mr Gerald Kaufman, yesterday quoted extracts in the Commons from an internal Home Office briefing paper which, he said, showed that the Government had been deliberately using queues in the Indian sub-continent to control immigration.

He claimed that it directly contradicted a speech by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in Manchester last month in which he said that the Government did not maintain queues as a deliberate measure to control the flow of immigration.

Mr Kaufman said that the briefing paper, prepared for Home Office ministers, was produced a couple of years ago and stated, "In two significant areas a system of queues operates to regulate the flow of immigration."

It went on, "The number of entry clearance officers is, in practice, a prime regulator of the number of husbands, wives, children and male fiancés admitted from the Indian sub-continent in any one year." Mr David Waddington, told Home Office minister responsible for immigration, told the Commons that the briefing paper had been drawn up by civil servants during the course of the last general election.



Mr Waddington: 'Matter of plain common sense'

He asked, "Is it not a matter of fact that the number of entry clearance officers is, in practice, a prime regulator of the number of husbands, wives, children and male fiancés admitted from the Indian sub-continent in any one year?"

Mr Kaufman said that the briefing paper had been drawn up by civil servants during the course of the last general election. He claimed that the waiting times in general were shorter

under the Conservative Government than under the Labour Government for those who applied to British Consulates abroad to emigrate to the United Kingdom. He said that, if the criticism was true, it applied equally to Labour as it did to Conservatives.

The exchanges came during a Commons debate on the report of the Commission for Racial Equality on immigration control procedures. Mr Kaufman said that the report had been sabotaged by Home Office ministers, who had tried to delay its publication and preparation through the threat of court action.

"It reveals ministers to be enacting policies that are discriminatory to a point of being racist," he claimed. Mr Kaufman pledged that the next Labour Government would repeal the current immigration laws and replace them with "new, anti-racist and anti-racist immigration controls."

Mr Waddington claimed that action by a future Labour Government to scrap the Immigration Act would be disastrous for community relations. He said that the Immigration Act was a necessary control over immigration. Mr Waddington said that the Commission's conclusions, which the Government found odd, and even perverse.

PM's question time under scrutiny

By our Political Reporter

AN all-party committee of MPs is to study possible changes in the style of Prime Minister's question time in the Commons.

There have been complaints from some MPs about the way the 15-minute slot in the timetable for Tuesday and Thursday — traditionally for backbenchers to cross-examine the Prime Minister — has been dominated by the opposing party leaders, Mr Neil Kinnock and Mrs Thatcher.

This can often make for heated exchanges and backbenchers believe that the rowdiness of Prime Minister's question time, which has brought floods of complaints from listeners since the House was first broadcast on radio, has undermined an important feature of the Commons.

Another development which has been criticised has been the use of the so-called open question, which enables MPs to try to catch Mrs Thatcher out by asking her to list her engagements for the day and following with a supplementary surprise question.

The Commons procedure committee has recently recommended changes in the format of the open question to save printing costs of the Commons Order Paper. It has now decided to look at the effects it is having on the House. How-

ever, Mrs Thatcher has made it absolutely clear that she is more than ready to deal with unexpected questions and has no objection to the use of this parliamentary device, which has developed since she took office in 1979.

Members of the committee, therefore, believe it is unlikely that at the end of their inquiry, which may involve taking evidence from party leaders and backbenchers, they will be recommending any significant changes.

The SDP and Liberal Alliance Parties are said to be annoyed that the committee has given priority to this inquiry. They are protesting because this has delayed consideration of their complaints about the way the Alliance MPs are allotted time in the Commons.

The procedure committee was given the task after a Labour Government is expected to win a majority in the next election. Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, from sitting in his normal seat and then blocked him from opening an SDP debate from the Opposition despatch box.

The Alliance were delighted when the issue was referred to the procedure committee but dissatisfied that it will now be delayed and could be forgotten with the end of the parliamentary session now in sight.

LOOKING AHEAD

With an eye to the byelection

By Colin Brown

WITH the Brecon and Radnor byelection in the offing, the Opposition have chosen the subject of the Government's "neglect of rural communities in Wales" for a half-day debate in the Commons after the Whitsun recess.

The Liberals have been a little less obvious by choosing the subject of the problems of the elderly for a half-day debate on Thursday, June 6. But this is intended to tie in with the expected announcement on Monday of the long-awaited Fowler review of the social security system, including state earnings related pensions (SERPs).

The Government is rushing through its bill offering £30 millions in aid to the Scottish

come week's break from the Local Government Bill before getting down to another six days on the report stage, which could cause the whips more sleepless nights.

ETHIOPIA Inquiry on 'aid duty'

THE Prime Minister yesterday pledged in the Commons to investigate reports that the Ethiopian Government is imposing heavy import duties on famine relief sent from Britain.

Mrs Thatcher gave the undertaking during Question Time after Mr Bowen (Wells) (C, Hastings and Sturtevant) urged her to examine reports that "the Ethiopian dictatorship is levying heavy customs duty on British aid going into that country."

LANDLORDS

Homes safeguard

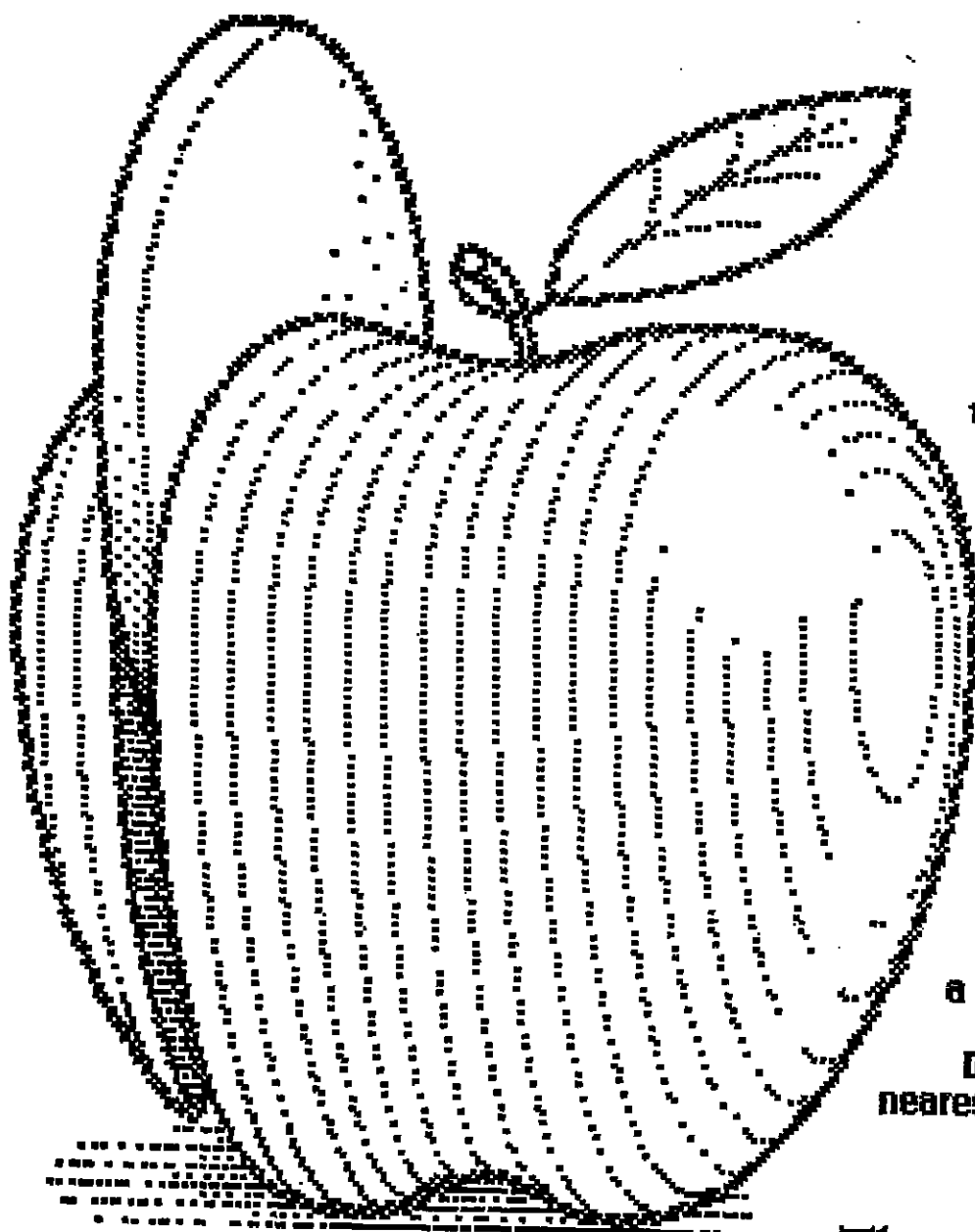
A BACKBENCH bill ensuring that landlords can reclaim their homes from tenants after returning from abroad became law today.

The Rent (Amendment) Bill was passed by peers earlier this week without debate and received Royal Assent yesterday. It was introduced in the Commons by Mr Michael Mates (C, Hampshire E) after an appeal court ruling that landlords could lose possession if they failed to return home when there was a change of tenancy.

SEVERN BRIDGE

Tolls rise by 150 pc

TOLLS on vehicles crossing the Severn Bridge are to rise by 150 per cent in a month's time the Transport Minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, announced



What neater solution to your filing problems than Apple's powerful Macintosh computer? It not only stores words and numbers, it has the unique ability to store charts and pictures. Plus an uncanny way with language. It uses plain English and clear graphics, instead of jargon.

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Now it offers both more. And less.

EIGHT MORE DOORS IN THE RANGE.

Each of the four cars in the BMW 3 Series can now come with two extra doors for an extra £425.

You'll also find we've created more rear headroom and legroom by repositioning the fuel tank. Which means the 3 Series is not just more comfortable to get into, it is more comfortable to stay in as well.

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PRICE ISN'T THE SAME AS COST.

Many people are surprised to find that a BMW 3 series can cost less than a mass produced car.

The comparison becomes even more favourable if you look at the total cost of a car including everything from servicing to depreciation.

Taking all that into account the figures add up in a way that may surprise you.

For example, Company Car showed that the total cost over 45,000 miles of a BMW 318i was less than cars with the same engine size from two leading mass producers. The biggest contribution to this is the extraordinarily low depreciation of a BMW.

According to another study, the 316 loses value at a rate of 7.07 pence per mile. A typical mass produced car loses its value at 9.37 pence per mile.

Multiply that by 45,000 miles and you can see how the initial extra price of a BMW soon disappears.

DRIVING IS MORE FUN THAN STEERING.

Nobody of course buys a BMW just to lower their motoring costs. They choose them because BMWs are one of the few cars that are tautly engineered as driving machines.

Even the least expensive car, the 316, has an engine with the same cylinder block used in the BMW racing engines that have won 7 World and European championships.

And every engine, whether it is four or six cylinders, releases its power with a smooth fluidity that makes other engines seem flustered and ungainly.

THE ADVANTAGE OF NOT BEING MASS PRODUCED.

Performance alone has never been a recommendation for a BMW 3 Series. It's also the way the cars are constructed.

For whatever the price, we only have one standard.

A quarter of the time spent building every BMW is spent painting it.

The inside of every BMW cylinder is honed twice. All of which helps explain the way in which BMWs are still worth driving when other cars become an expensive embarrassment.

THINK OF THE NEXT 45,000 MILES.

May we suggest you try the front door of a BMW 3 Series. There are 12 different models (including the four Cabriolet versions) to choose from so one of them is likely to fit your needs.

Certainly, if you are planning to buy a car in our price range, it must make sense to try a BMW.

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(County) _____ (Postal Code) _____

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THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Budget vote blow to Reagan

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives last night overwhelmingly approved a budget which would cut the US deficit by \$56 billion by freezing defence spending at present levels.

Passage of the Democratic resolution, which seeks to restore cuts in retirement pensions made in the Republican Senate and cut defence more deeply, sets in motion a clash between the two Houses in conference committee. However, the action demonstrated a determination to trim America's looming budget deficits through spending reductions.

The White House press secretary, Mr Larry Speakes, indicated that the President would have difficulty with the House's decision to go beyond the Senate in cutting defence spending. The Senate resolution, which has Mr Reagan's

Leader comment, page 14

support, would allow an increase in the defence budget to allow for inflation. The House wants a simple freeze in 1985 figures with no inflation adjustment.

In a series of votes yesterday, the House brushed aside Republican efforts to restore military spending to the levels of 1980. In a decisive 329-102 vote, it rejected a plan by Mr Delbert Latta, a senior Republican member of the Budget Committee, to pass a bill on the same lines as the Senate.

When the conference committee of the two Houses meets after this weekend's Memorial Day holiday, it will have to thrash out the differences. The Senate will be seeking to ensure that Democrats take some of the blame for the proposed savings on the cost-of-living adjustment on retirement pensions.

Similarly, the White House can be expected to take a tough line against the House effort to hold the defence budget at 1985 levels, implying a real reduction in defence spending for the first time in five years. President Reagan has already climbed down three times over the defence budget and will clearly be reluctant to make a further compromise.

The fact that the House has come this far, approving \$56 billion in cuts, including domestic programmes, should provide some confidence to America's trading partners and the financial markets that Washington is finally prepared to take tough steps to reduce deficits which are projected at nearly \$200 billion until the late 1980s.

Dr Alan Greenspan, an adviser to President Reagan on economic affairs, said yesterday that the budget package — if passed — could mean a drop in long-term interest rates, which would mean a big decline for the US dollar.

Spy charge tip-off by ex-wife

From Robert Jackson in Washington

A retired US Navy communications specialist accused of spying for Moscow with his sailor son was turned in to federal authorities by his former wife and his daughter.

Department sources said yesterday.

They said the FBI began surveillance after being tipped off three months ago about the alleged activities of John Anthony Walker, aged 47, who left the navy in 1976 with top-secret clearance, and his son Michael, aged 22, who was charged with supplying secrets.

One source said the ex-wife and daughter: "They knew what was going on for quite a while." The source said the ex-wife saw the fruits of Walker's activities reflected in his lifestyle, adding: "He moved in the fast track."

One reason may have been the strained relations between the couple after a bitter divorce several years ago, the source said.

The assistant US attorney, Mr Michael Schatz, said in an affidavit that the younger Walker had complained in a letter to his father that he was becoming overburdened with classified documents.

What should I do about the increasing amounts of photos I have been acquiring?" he asked in the letter. "At the rate I am going I will have over 100lb of souvenirs. I have run out of space."

Walker was working as a clerk in the ship's operations department, which handles communications and combat functions of the carrier, naval officials said.

The FBI arrested John Walker early on Monday at a motel in Rockville, Maryland, after trailing him to an apparent "drop site" where they found a shopping bag containing 129 secret navy documents, including material believed to be from a Russian spy. Authorities said that a Russian spy was seen in the area of the drop site.

Los Angeles Times.

General in charge of project seeks to calm Europe's fears

Star Wars 'does not breach arms treaty'

By Heila Pick

Lieutenant-General James Abrahamson, who is in charge of coordinating President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, said yesterday that his instructions were to direct space weapons research so that "it remains strictly within the terms of the 1972 ABM (Anti Ballistic Missiles) Treaty."

In a press conference via satellite with journalists in the West European capitals, the general also said that Star Wars research was not aimed simply at giving the US an "astrodome" against nuclear attack.

President Reagan had instructed him to concentrate on research that "would provide an effective defence against tactical, short-range ballistic missiles, as well as intercontinental strategic nuclear war weapons," the general said. This meant that SDI was as much in the interests of Western Europe as of the US, and that the US was aware of the "decoupling" of the US from its allies.

General Abrahamson, unlike his colleagues in the Pentagon, Mr Richard Perle, saw nothing in the concept of SDI expressed by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, about the political and strategic implications of SDI.

But as an enthusiastic advocate of developing space defence against nuclear attack, he appears to believe that more education and a better understanding of the underlying strategic considerations would convert the critics.

He welcomed Eureka, the French-sponsored idea for coordinating advanced technology

research in Europe and spoke enthusiastically of recruiting the best brains in Western Europe as well as in the US for the complex research.

"Moreover, if and when we come to take decisions about the production of the new technologies... we want our partners to have a thorough understanding of the issues."

When President Reagan first announced his Star Wars Programme in 1983 he held out the vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. General Abrahamson yesterday modified this goal, saying that the development of defensive space weapons should eventually make nuclear weapons "obsolete and impotent."

"Obviously all of us would like to abolish nuclear weapons," he said. But that implied fundamental changes in international relations. Without showing any awareness of Hitler's use of the phrase, the general in charge of Star Wars asserted "the final solution lies in a human solution."

In Vienna, long-running East-West talks on cutting conventional forces in central Europe resumed yesterday with both sides calling for progress, but the differences that have blocked agreement so far were still very much in evidence.

The East German deputy delegation head, Mr Ulrich Potrafky, said that the Warsaw Pact was still awaiting an answer to its proposal, made on February 16, for a four-year phase out of 13,000 American and 20,000 Soviet troops followed by a freeze of all armies in the region.

Solidarity leaders refuse to testify

Gdansk: Three solidarity leaders went on trial yesterday, accused of illegal union activities but they refused to testify unless they were allowed access to their lawyers.

The dissident intellectual, Mr Adam Michnik, and two regional activists, Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Mr Bogdan Lis, were charged with leading an illegal union and fomenting public unrest. They face a maximum five-year prison term if convicted.

The trial, the most important opposition case since more than 60 political prisoners were released under a government amnesty last July, was barred to Western reporters and other Solidarity activists were not allowed to attend.

Legal sources in this Baltic port said that the defendants had refused all testimony unless they were allowed to consult their lawyers for at least 10 minutes.

The court, which earlier rejected a motion that two trusted friends of each defendant be permitted to attend the trial, did not take a decision on the refusal and adjourned proceedings until today.

Mr Michnik, aged 38, Mr Frasyniuk, aged 31, and Mr

Lis, aged 32, were all freed under the amnesty but almost immediately resumed opposition work.

They were arrested in February after attending a meeting called by Solidarity's chairman Mr Lech Walesa, to plan protests, including a possible strike appeal, against government-imposed food price rises.

Mr Walesa has been called by the prosecution as a witness in the case and is due to appear in court on Monday, legal sources said. The trial is expected to last four days, with a break at the weekend.

Mr Lis's mother, sister and brother-in-law, Mr Frasyniuk's wife and mother and Mr Michnik's fiancée were allowed into the trial, but many of the 50 people present were strangers, court sources said. Security policemen normally attend such trials.

Solidarity's former deputy leader, Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, who was denied permission to attend the trial, told reporters: "As they do not let newspapermen attend, this is proof that their evidence is very thin."

Police put Mr Walesa under investigation on the same charges as his fellow-unionists and warned him not to leave Gdansk, but have so far refrained from prosecuting him — Reuters.

Silesia rally draws right

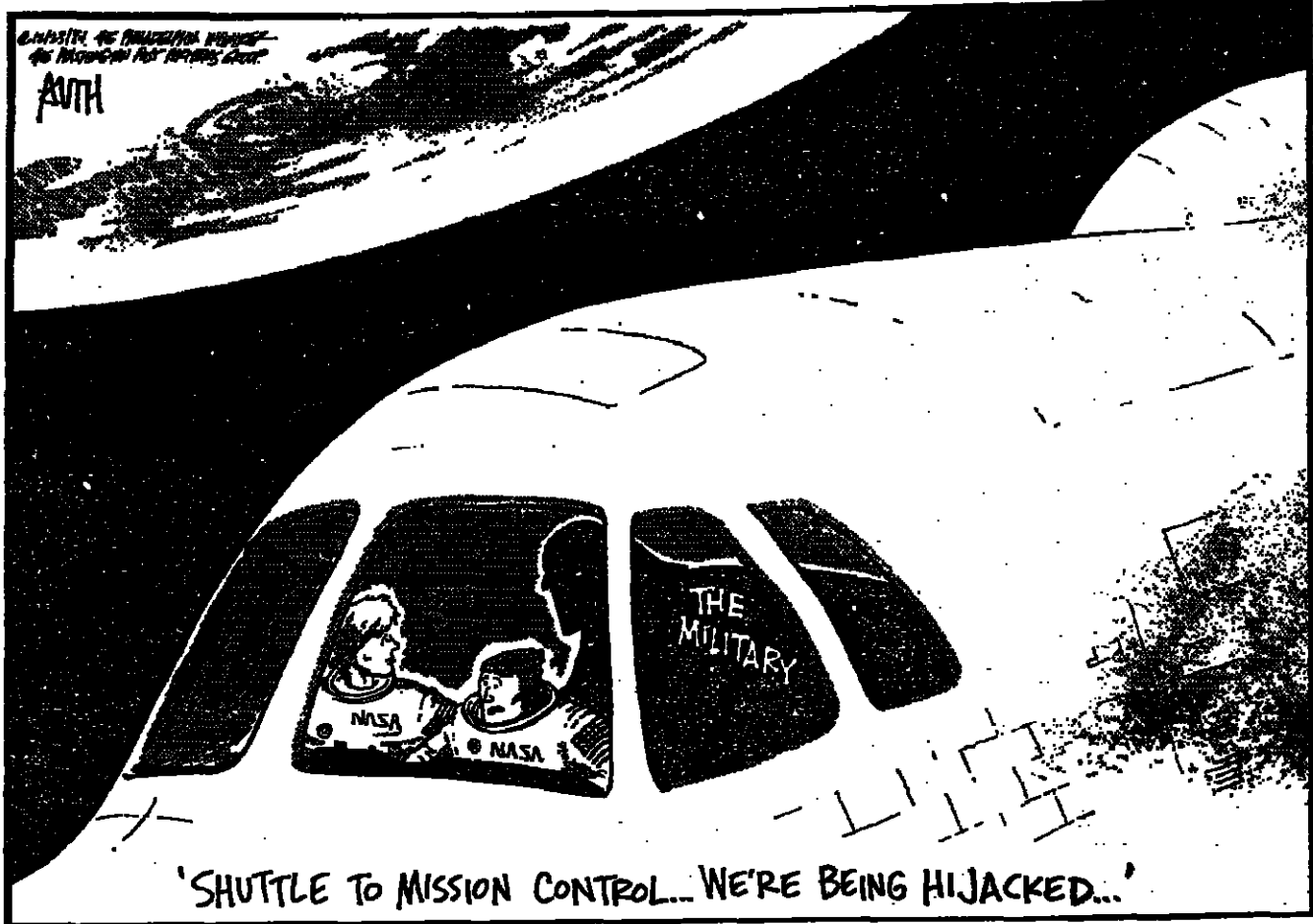
Hanover: The extreme rightwing German National Democratic Party (NPD) said yesterday that it planned to attend a controversial rally of Silesian exiles next month which Chancellor Helmut Kohl will address.

The NPD spokesman, Mr Karl-Heinz Vossatz, said that up to 600 party members and sympathisers would distribute a mass edition of the party's newspaper, German Voice, carrying a banner headline claim-

ing East Germany for the West.

Chancellor Kohl's plans to address the three-day rally, starting on June 14, have been fiercely criticised following articles in the Silesians' newspaper calling for the return of German territories lost to East Germany after the Second World War.

About 150,000 people are expected to attend the Hanover rally, staged annually by German expellees after 1945 from the now Polish province of Silesia. — Reuters.



Shuttle to carry SDI

Washington: The space shuttle, Discovery, will be used in the first of a series of Star Wars missile defence experiments, the Defence Department said yesterday.

A ground laser beam shot from a test facility on the island of Maui, Hawaii, will be aimed at an eight-inch reflector attached to the Discovery while it circles the earth in low orbit. The voyage is scheduled for mid-June.

The experiment is to test the ability of a ground laser to track an object in low orbit accurately, the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon also announced the formation of another research consortium to study how electronic systems fail or wear out and how to make them more reliable.

Peace institute urges end of plutonium production

Washington: The world's five nuclear powers should stop producing plutonium and weapons-grade uranium in a cooperative move to stem nuclear proliferation, an international report said yesterday.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said such a step by the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China could be verified quickly by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency.

In a report on Safeguarding the Atom, the private institute noted that China, the Soviet Union and France had not joined Washington and London in agreeing to place all nuclear energy facilities including those capable of making

weapons fuel under IAEA safeguards.

"An important measure which could render the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty more attractive to non-nuclear weapons states would be the cessation of the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium for military purposes and the placing of the relevant plants under safeguards," the report said.

The IAEA and a subsequent international nuclear safeguards agreement had been remarkably successful in slowing the spread of nuclear weapons in the past 10 years, it said.

Lack of progress on arms control and a continued build-up of nuclear stockpiles by the five countries had prompted a drive by other countries to ob-

tain weapons of mass destruction, the institute said.

It said the desire of some states to develop atomic weapons was growing rather than waning. It noted that China and France as well as "nuclear threshold" states Argentina, Brazil, India, Israel, Pakistan and South Africa had not signed the 1968 treaty.

"Technical improvements of safeguards are feasible, but their main limitations and weaknesses are political, not technical," said the report, written by a former South African diplomat, Mr David Fischer and Mr Paul Seatz, the director of the UN office of legal affairs.

The report followed a number of recent highly-publicised events involving nuclear proliferation. — Reuters.

Transport ministers hit buffers

From Derek Brown in Brussels

EEC Transport Ministers yesterday recorded two more disagreements in the aftermath of the European Court judgment condemning their governments for failing to establish a common transport policy.

One was on a master plan for transport from the current Italian EEC president. It has referred back to officials for further discussion, after harsh criticism. The British Minister, Mr Nicholas Ridley, skipped a national reserve on the entire document for being too vague and for lacking specific proposals to deregulate transport systems.

Last night, Mr Ridley presented the court judgment as a triumph for those countries, basically Britain and the Benelux three — which want speedy action to liberalise measures.

"At last we have got our priorities right," he said. The Italian master plan excluded any specific proposals on liberalisation: the very subject on which the court had pronounced.

The ministers, who will meet again on June 24 in Luxembourg, also fell out yesterday with the EEC Commission over proposals to reform Community rules on working hours of commercial drivers. Both the Council of Ministers, and the Commission, want to make the system more flexible.

Meanwhile, the Transport Commissioner, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, has threatened new legal proceedings against national governments of allegedly blocking development of a more liberal aviation system in Europe.

"The flexible system we propose will enable the European consumer to get cheaper fares," he said.

Belgrade intellectuals facing prison terms for propaganda plan indefinite hunger strike

From Michael Simmons in Belgrade

Three Belgrade intellectuals sentenced three months ago to varying prison terms for spreading propaganda hostile to Yugoslavia, have agreed to embark on an indefinite joint hunger strike if they lose their appeals against the sentences.

They had originally been accused of counter-revolutionary and anti-state activities. The three were convicted after a three-month trial in early February for offences their supporters say were not proved on the basis, they claim, of inaccurate or even totally falsified evidence. Their appeals, which should have been heard within 20 days of the verdict, are already two months late.

The federal authorities have been much embarrassed by the trial, which officials now acknowledge produced much ad-

verse publicity abroad and inside the country, has had the opposite effect to that intended. Far from deterring dissent, it has apparently added fuel to the already heated debate on the country's current economic crisis, which also has complicated political ramifications.

Sentences ranged from two years on Miroslav Milić, a 55-year-old writer; one-and-a-half years for a sociologist, Milan Nikolic, aged 37, and one year for a radio journalist, Dragomir Olujic, aged 36. They had been arrested early last year during an ostensibly private discussion in a Belgrade flat.

The three say that if their sentences are upheld they will be kept in a "prison within a prison" and in very poor conditions. Their hope now is that the sympathy they gained during the pre-trial and trial period from some Western

leaders as well as influential socialists will be repeated. The federal leadership, on the other hand, feel that the three have had too much exposure to the trial itself was distorted in the Western press.

An unforeseen effect has also been a widening of the apparent split in the country's leadership. One group would like to see the country more tightly centrally controlled and favours more political and economic discipline in solving the country's problems.

The other group leans more heavily on the influence of Western money-lenders, including the IMF. Yugoslavia's Prime Minister, Mr Milka Planinc, visits the US in 10 days and the visit is being billed as having much more long-term significance, and even strategic importance, than the visit to Moscow which she makes later in the year.

Spanish police chief fined for helping murder suspects escape

From Jane Walker in Madrid

One of Spain's senior police officers was yesterday suspended for three years and fined \$500 of obstructing the course of justice.

Manuel Ballesteros, the former head of the anti-terrorist police, was found guilty by a San Sebastian court of helping

three suspected gunmen to escape after a shooting incident in a bar in south-west France which left two men dead and 10 injured.

The court ruled that Mr Ballesteros had helped the three "premeditated killers" escape by ordering their immediate release. The incident occurred in November, 1980 when three men, driving a stolen car, crashed through the frontier between Spain and France at Hendaye, only minutes after the bar, frequented by exiled Spanish Basques, had been swept by machinegun fire.

On being detained by border police, the three men revealed that they were police informers and demanded a telephone call to a special number in Madrid. Their identities were confirmed by Ballesteros's assistant, who demanded that the men should be released immediately.

French police have repeatedly asked that the men, whose identities have since been revealed, should be returned to France to face trial. On five different occasions Spanish courts have demanded that Mr Ballesteros should name the men, but he has always refused.

It was revealed in court that the telephone record book at the border police station showed that instructions received from Madrid were that the police should "hear no evil and see no evil."

Petrol strike

PETROL stations were closed in most parts of Italy yesterday as owners staged a 36-hour strike in protest against possible deregulation which they fear could lead to a price war and reduced profit margins. — Reuters.

Moscow's metro celebrates with expansion plans

From Martin Walker in Moscow

THE MOSCOW Metro, which Russians consider as the eighth wonder of the world, is gearing up to celebrate its 50th anniversary this year with yet another expansion programme.

The system already claims to be the world's busiest, with 8 million passengers a day on its 125 miles of line and 130 stations, but the strategy of expansion has become a focus of dispute about the future of Moscow itself.

One group of planners thinks that the city needs an outer circle line, to facilitate travel between the new outer suburbs, so that people who live in the south-east of Moscow do not have to travel in the centre in order to change trains and get out again to the south-west.

The second group, which looks as though it will win the argument, says that traffic densities would initially be too low on an outer circle line. It makes more sense to increase the number of radial lines into the centre, but to make some of these high-speed systems.

The new stations of the Moscow Metro are no longer the stunning works of art that were built in the 1930s, with their ornate chandeliers, marble walls, mosaics and statues. Stalin wanted the Metro stations to be showcases of Soviet art, to show that nothing was too good for the workers.

The most ornate, and rather kitsch to the modern taste, is the Komsomolskaya station which blends high camp with high Gothic and a touch of the oriental bazaar in the most peculiar way.

Some, like the Mayakovskaya (where Stalin addressed the population in the first winter of the war, when it was used as a bomb shelter) are still elegant and impressive.

The Moscow Metro has become one of the Soviet Union's export successes, sending its designers and its trains to Metros across Eastern Europe, and now hoping for sales in the West.

London Transport could certainly learn from its reliability with trains coming every minute in the rush hours, and signs on each platform to indicate how many minutes and seconds wait for the last train left. A wait of more than three minutes is a cause for complaint.

At the end of last year, the Politburo authorised a dramatic expansion of Metro systems around the country. In 1970, there were Metro

systems in only the three cities of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. Now there are Metros running in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, the Byelorussian capital of Minsk, in Kharkov and Tashkent, and in the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

Later this year, new lines are due to open in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, and in the huge industrial city of Gorky, closed to foreigners but known in the West as Andrei Sakharov's place of exile.

New Metro construction has begun in three more cities, and approval has been given to start tunnelling for two more in the Latvian city of Riga, and in Almaty, near the Chinese border. Plans are now being drawn for three more Metros in new Siberian cities.

All the evidence shows

that for cities of about a million people or more, Metros are by far the best transportation system, particularly as rising car ownership causes street congestion and slows bus times," says Yuri Kruk, the head of the construction department of Moscow Metro. "But when it comes to much bigger cities, like Moscow and Leningrad, the strategy of expansion becomes crucial."

As coastal city, Leningrad can only expand inland, so the designers are forced to build new radial lines, and the city planners have convinced the national planning centre of Gosplan that it makes economic sense to invest now in building new lines even before the new suburbs are built that will contain the passengers of the future.

In Moscow, the debate between those who want the new outer circle line and those who want the fast radial lines has become a debate about the future growth of Moscow. Although internal passports were finally abolished 10 years ago, to live in Moscow requires a residency permit, a bureaucratic measure aimed at stopping the otherwise uncontrollable growth of Moscow's population.

The radial-line advocates say that their system will enable Moscow's growth to be controlled and directed to the new micro-cities that are being erected in the outskirts. The outer circle line's advocates say that their system will enable these micro-cities to grow without putting more strain on the already stretched transport system of central Moscow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentine strike falls flat

ARGENTINA'S autocratic Labour leaders yesterday staged their second national strike since President Alfonsín's elected government took office 18 months ago, writes Jeremy Morgan.

The strike, in protest against an emerging shift in economic policy, had only partial success. In the capital, the underground trains and buses ran normally, and most businesses were scarcely affected. Reports from the interior, Peronism's stronghold also suggested that the strike gained little support.

The stoppage was accompanied by a mass protest outside the presidential palace, where Mr Alfonsín last month announced a war economy to counter inflation approaching 1,000 per cent, declining production, sinking investment, and rising unemployment.

France pulls out

FRANCE has withdrawn from a UN programme to combat piracy against Vietnamese refugees in the Gulf of Thailand, raising fears that the programme may be weakened, writes Iain Guest.

French representatives told the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva on Wednesday that their Government cannot afford to participate. It had contributed \$214,000 (\$167,000) since the programme began in June, 1982.

Officers held

FOUR Mozambican officers have been detained for forcibly recruiting men into the armed forces. The Defence Ministry said in Maputo that they ordered soldiers to carry out unauthorised sweeps in public places, detaining men up to the age of 40. — Reuters.

Tigers' troubles

THE RARE Java tiger's population has been reduced to five by settlers extending their holdings into the animals' traditional habitat. The Indonesian Environment Minister, Mr Emil Salim, said yesterday that goats and chickens were now being slaughtered for the tigers, which otherwise would turn to hunting men. Deer are also being raised to restore the ecological balance. — Reuters.

Nepalis protest

ABOUT 300 supporters of the banned Nepali Congress have been arrested during protests against "deteriorating conditions" in the Hindu kingdom. A party spokesman said yesterday in Kathmandu that "the undemocratic political system" might cause an "explosion" in the country. — Reuters.

Conductor quits

A LEADING East German conductor, Mr Wulf-Dieter Hauschild, of the Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, has decided not to return to the East after being told by East German authorities to break a contract with the Stuttgart Philharmonic. — Reuters.

Passport fiddle

A WEST GERMAN businessman has been arrested on suspicion of peddling diplomatic passports from the non-existent republic of Konevye. Police said the man, identified only as Heinz S., had offered the "passports" for sale at up to DM50,000 (£13,250) each. — Reuters.

Farmers march

THOUSANDS of Swedish farmers marched through Stockholm's central business district yesterday to protest against cuts in agricultural subsidies, and high taxes on food. They say that VAT, at 23.46 per cent, is forcing consumers to cut back on meat and other basic foods. — Reuters.

Count's trial

THE FORMER economics minister, Count Otto Lambsdorff, and two other prominent West Germans will stand trial from August 29 on corruption and tax evasion charges, the Bonn regional court said yesterday. Lambsdorff is accused of accepting bribes to arrange tax concessions for the Flick business empire. — Reuters.



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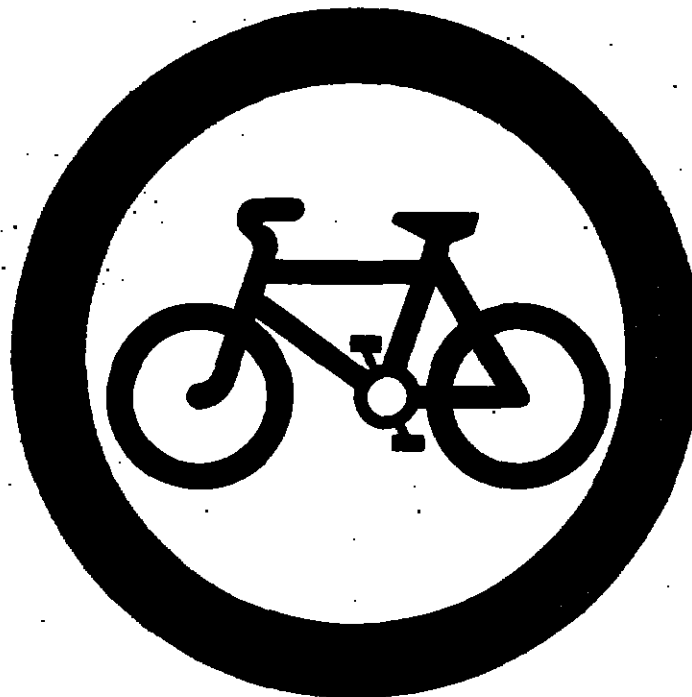
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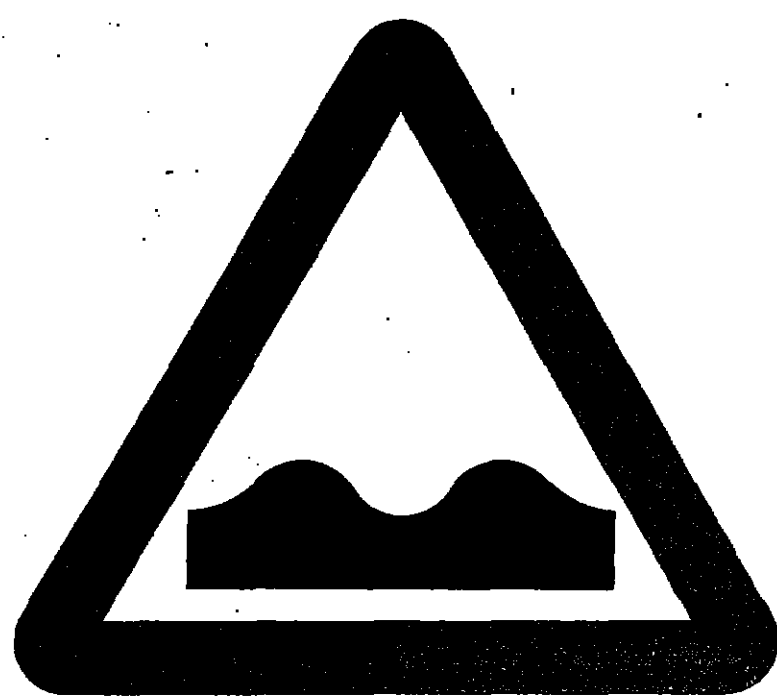
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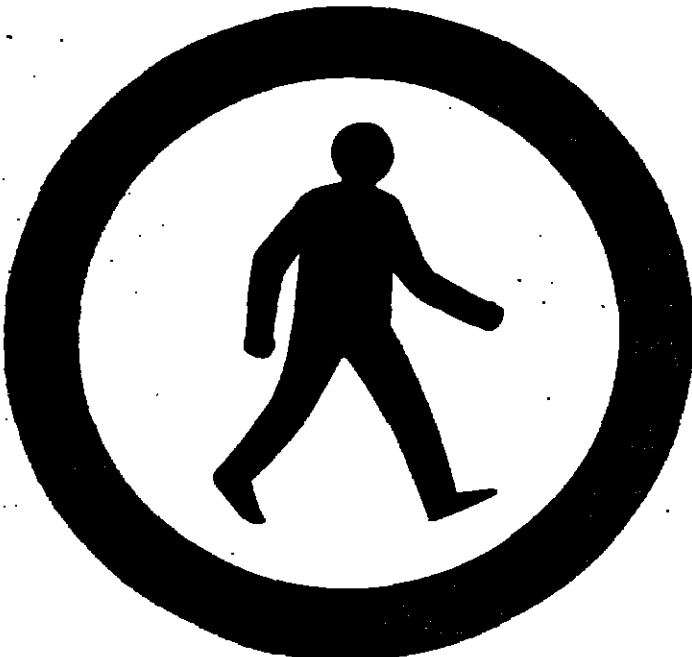
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Chamber of Commerce urges committee not to support bill

Key senator now willing to consider SA sanctions

From Michael White in Washington

The collapse of domestic political support for the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa reached a new low yesterday, with confirmation that the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is willing to consider immediate economic sanctions against Pretoria.

Senator Richard Lugar was guided during a committee hearing at which the US Chamber of Commerce urged him not to support legislation which might ban new investment and trade with South Africa, including the former UN ambassador, Mr. Andrew Young, Mayor of Atlanta — and stressed the importance of sending Pretoria a strong message before it was too late, to change quickly in order to avoid chaos and bloodshed.

The gathering momentum in the US for action against apartheid could now mean a congressional compromise behind the Republican Roth-McConnell Bill, which would impose specific economic sanctions on chosen targets in the hope of limiting economic damage. Thus South African Airways, which reportedly employs few blacks, would be banned from landing in the US. No computer sales would be made to the South African Police and nuclear technology would be placed under an export ban.

Congressmen, including Senator Lugar in his home state of Indiana, are also under strong pressure from the resurgent Anti-Apartheid Movement, as well as radical bills from Democratic Congressmen. So far, Senator Lugar has supported his majority leader, Bob Dole, in a bill which

would express a willingness to consider economic sanctions in two years' time if the President reported no progress in dismantling sanctions.

Meanwhile, it would make mandatory the so-called "Sullivan principles" which obligate US companies in South Africa to improve conditions for their non-white staff. Firms which ignored the Sullivan code would be prevented from making fresh investments and lose government support for their efforts to win contracts elsewhere in the world.

The House of Representatives is this week debating its own version of the radical measure sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy with moderate Republican support and by Republican William Gray, the most influential black Democratic congressman. This would ban new investment by new US South Africa, curb loans and the sale of Kruggerands and ban computer sales.

What the Roth-McConnell bill does is take elements of the Kennedy-Gray package, and elements of the existing Dole-Lugar package, including mandatory Sullivan principles, and split the difference. Aides of Senator Lugar suggest he is now moving in this direction.

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha has told Congress that the bill would be an "assault" against millions of blacks in southern Africa.

Mr. Botha said disinvestment could lead to greater unemployment, not just among South Africa's blacks, but among 1.5 million immigrant blacks in neighbouring states, and he warned that "millions and millions of black people, women and children, will starve".

Township toll 381, says Le Grange

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Louis Le Grange, has said that violent incidents in black townships totalled nearly 1,500 in April, and described the situation as extremely worrying.

Mr. Le Grange told a public meeting that 381 people were killed in township unrest between September 1 and April 30. Of these, 293 had been killed by police, six by Development Board officials and 82 by members of the public. Six policemen were killed during the same period.

Mr. Le Grange put the number of injured at 1,497. Journalists and civil rights groups had estimated the death toll, based on daily police reports, at about 200 so far this year. The official death toll for the whole of last year was also about 200.

Civil rights groups said that the number of injured is probably much higher than official figures suggest. Many youths wounded in rioting are afraid to report their injuries in case they are arrested on public violence charges.

A combined force of police and soldiers yesterday entered a black township in the industrial area of the Witwatersrand for the second successive day.

After their sweep through Duduza on the East Rand on Wednesday, police and soldiers launched a second operation

into the township of Ratanda yesterday.

Duduza was the scene of several stoning incidents on Monday, one of which resulted in the death of a white nurse after she was dragged from her car by an angry mob of blacks and pelted with stones.

Ratanda, near Heidelberg, was one of the first townships where popular pressure led to the resignation of its town council.

According to Major Steve van Rooyen, yesterday's exercise was to help the Development Board re-establish suspended services such as refuse removal.

A US travel advisory briefing said while the US embassy in South Africa has warned Americans to consult the US embassy or consulate before travelling to South Africa. It refers to the situation in the townships as "volatile".

A similar warning was issued on South Africa's independent "homeland" of Ciskei in 1983. The latest warning could hurt the inflow of American tourists — an estimated 70,000 came last year. The Foreign Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha, however, dismissed the warning as "no special significance".

Meanwhile, Ford said yesterday that it had shut down one of its car plants in Port Elizabeth for six weeks and temporarily laid off 850 black workers because of the depressed market.

Britain rules out new famine relief

From Derek Brown in Brussels

Mr. Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday confirmed that no new government money has been directed towards African famine relief.

He said that cash for emergency aid — running at £95 million this year — had come from a contingency reserve, and from government funds on other projects within the existing budget. The only additional element was the £81 million cost of the continuing RAF Hercules airlift operation. That was being met from the Ministry of Defence budget.

Mr. Raison, here to review European famine operations with other EEC ministers, defended the Government's determination to keep relief spending within the existing budget.

"The whole point of having a contingency reserve is to deal with the unexpected, and that is what we have done," he said.

Mr. Raison said that about £45 million had come from the reserve, and the remainder of Britain's famine aid — with the exception of the RAF airlift — would come from "shortfalls in other areas of the budget".

Foreign Affairs Committee.

The report attacked the Government's failure to provide new money for famine relief. It also criticised the EEC for inflating figures of food on offer to Africa, by including amounts pledged by individual governments, and those already promised in existing aid programmes.

The EEC development ministers yesterday heard that 440,000 tonnes of cereal equivalent had been sent, or was on the way. A total of 1.2 million tonnes was offered by the European Commission and national governments at the EEC summit in Dublin last December, and the pledges have since risen to more than 1.6 million tonnes. The total is made up of three elements: regular food aid, emergency food aid, and aid from member states.

Ministers yesterday heard before them an EEC Commission paper listing total world pledges of food aid totalling 6.8 million tonnes, with the US by far the biggest single donor. The Commission assessed total needs in Africa at between 5.5 and 6.1 million tonnes.

Transport difficulties continue to be a major concern in Chad, Sudan, and Ethiopia, where, on April 22, 140,000 tonnes of food were put in store for lack of transport.



A Palestinian mother holds her sleeping baby in a Beirut bomb shelter

Extremist guilty of Mosque plot

Jerusalem: A court yesterday convicted a Jewish settler of plotting to blow up the Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's holiest shrine in Jerusalem, and wound Arab mayors, amid rightwing calls that he and 28 others standing trial, be freed.

Mehachem Neuberger, aged 29, admitted guilt in Israel's Jewish underground trial after charges of criminal attack and membership of a terrorist organisation were dropped in plea bargaining.

Wearing the skullcap of a religious Jew, he told the Jerusalem District Court that he had made a mistake in joining the plots. His sentence will be announced later.

The court ended its session after two other defendants refused to testify in protest over Israel's release on Monday of 1,150 Palestinian guerrillas, including convicted killers, for three Israeli soldiers.

The prisoner exchange prompted demands by rightwing coalition ministers

that the settlers, who say they acted to retaliate against guerrilla attacks, be freed.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, yesterday asked the Attorney-General, Mr. Yitzhak Zamir, to rule on whether there was any legal basis for freeing them before the trial ends.

Eight settlers have been sentenced to terms ranging from several months to 10 years. President Chaim Herzog will consider requests for clemency only after all court proceedings have ended.

Most of the defendants dismissed their lawyers last week after the court refused to hear testimony over security in the West Bank as part of their case.

The judges yesterday refused to accept the dismissals and ordered the lawyers to stay on. The summing up in the trial of 15 of the defendants begins next week.

Bombing foiled

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

EGYPT's interior Ministry said yesterday that security forces had foiled a plot to blow up a foreign embassy in Cairo using a car bomb.

An area of the city, which includes the American embassy, was sealed off for several hours by police on Wednesday.

A ministry statement said that a Libyan Liviat, an "a third country" had recruited an agent for training in Syria. Local reporters were shown a white Skoda car made in Czechoslovakia which it said had been packed with 150lb of explosives intended for use as the car bomb.

For several hours on Wednesday, troops cordoned off an area in central Cairo, which houses both the US and British embassies.

The interior Ministry said the Egyptians had closed the area to guard against any alternative sabotage plan.

Panic as shells explode near Beirut mourners

Beirut: Christian East Beirut buried the victims of its worst car bomb disaster yesterday amid scenes of mass grief that turned to near-panic as shells exploded nearby.

Tears streamed down the faces of hardened Christian militiamen as they fought to control hundreds of hysterical mourners, some of whom threatened to storm the steps of the 32,000 sq ft church as they arrived for the open-air service.

At least 41 people died in Wednesday's car bomb explosion that wrecked a "down block" of half-800 year-old houses. The church of St. Maroun, in the East Beirut's Shmoukha district, where the funeral was held. Some bodies were taken by relatives for burial elsewhere.

Minutes after the service began, grief turned to fear as two shells exploded not far from the packed square bedecked with a banner saying: "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they do."

A minute later a third shell exploded still closer, with a heavy crump and the square half emptied as mourners began to flee amid chaotic shouting. For a few moments of confusion covered with red and white Lebanese flags outside the church was almost forgotten.

"How can we live with these people?" a man said of the shelling as people fled.

Christian radio stations said the shelling, which intensified in the evening, came from Druze-held mountains above Beirut. The Druze have been among the Christians' fiercest foes during Lebanon's civil war.

Amid the panic, black-robed monks calmly carried on chanting dirges on the church steps. Religious and political dignitaries remained seated and the service resumed.

But it was cut by 15 minutes, throwing off a visit by President Amin Gemayel who arrived late as coffins were being carried up the steps for burial in vaults behind the church.

Some mourners, however, said the car bomb disaster should stiffen Christian resolve against Druze and Muslim opponents.

"Wake up, Christians, and see what is happening to you. It is time to act," an old woman shouted above the shrieks of grief and tolling church bells.

Pro-Israeli militiamen killed four Lebanese army soldiers in fighting near Jezzine in South Lebanon yesterday, Lebanese military sources said.

Three soldiers were killed and one wounded when an army patrol moving from the eastern Bekaa Valley towards the Lebanese town of Jezzine was ambushed by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia. — Reuters.

Syria says PLO provoked attack

Paris: The Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Farouq al-Shara, yesterday accused the Palestinian leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, of provoking the slaughter at Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, where at least 125 people have died in fighting since Sunday.

Mr. Shara, ending a three-day visit to France, said the fighting at the Sabra, Chatila and Bourj al-Barajneh camps, was the result of provocation by the PLO leader, he said, wanted to prove he had an armed presence in Lebanon.

The Shiite Amal militia said on Wednesday night that it controlled two of the camps, but fighting erupted again yesterday. Asked whether Syria supported Arafat's action, Shara said: "We do not encourage this type of incident, but it was not Amal who started the provocation."

Mr. Shara denied reports that members of pro-Syrian dissi-

dent Palestinians had joined forces with the pro-Arafat factions of the PLO in their fight against Amal.

Yesterday the PLO blamed Syria for the camp fighting.

Mr. Shara reaffirmed that Syrian troops would only enter Beirut to help the Lebanese Army, which, he agreed, of all the conflicting factions, was the Lebanese Government.

In Amman, Mr. Arafat yesterday denounced the "barbaric" attack on the camps as a "Syrian-American-Israeli conspiracy".

"It is a big conspiracy against our refugee camps and our people... hatched in June 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon with US support," Mr. Arafat said.

"It is part of an agreement between the US Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Murphy, and Syria to prevent PLO forces from returning to South Lebanon and to safeguard Israel's northern borders," he said. — Reuters.

Hussein seeks British backing

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

King Hussein of Jordan, who is seeking British support for his diplomatic initiative aimed at a new round of talks on the Middle East problem, made an unexpected stopover in London yesterday on his way to Washington.

The King is believed to be asking Mrs. Thatcher and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to use Britain's influence with President Reagan to bring pressure on Israel. The Jordanian leader believes that Israel's veto on dealing with any Palestinian with PLO links is a basic tactical error, bound to radicalise the very leaders who are needed at the conference table if any lasting accord is to be hammered out.

President Reagan is to host the King during an official visit to the US next week when pro-Arab and pro-Israeli lobbies are expected to be unusually active.

In London yesterday, King Hussein held talks with Sir Geoffrey and his Minister of State, Mr. Richard Luce.

The King is expected to stop off in London for talks with Mrs. Thatcher when he returns next month. His diplomatic initiative will then be further reviewed.

Reporter expelled

Tehran: Iran yesterday expelled Reuters' correspondent here, Trevor Wood, on the ground of biased reporting, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

An official of the press office of the Islamic Ministry of Islamic Guidance said he had written biased and at times false reports on the issues of the Islamic Republic, IRNA said.

A Reuters spokesman said in London: "We are aware that the Iranian authorities objected to some stories by our correspondent, but we are not aware of any biased or false reporting."

Mr. Wood, aged 45, a Briton, had been correspondent in Iran for a year. He arrived in London yesterday after having been told by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance on Monday that he had 48 hours to leave the country.

Meanwhile, Iraq denied a report that Iranian planes badly damaged a hydro-electric power plant in north-east Iraq. — Reuters.

Tibetans counting the cost of Chinese 'liberation'



Lucky to survive: Buddhist monks outside a monastery in Lhasa still live for the day when they will see the Dalai Lama.

MARY-LOUISE O'Callaghan reports from Lhasa that the only real achievement of China's occupation is the military stronghold it has built. Otherwise, little has changed for centuries.

IN THE streets of Lhasa, and the fields of Tibet little has changed for centuries. Begrimed pilgrims still prostrate themselves in the mud of streets that have no sewers, and outside the cities work a side-by-side with only a shovel tied to a length of rope to plough the hard, unyielding ground.

Except for a few privileged cadres and tourists there is no running water on the roof of the world. Transport is by foot and beast, and if you are lucky, you might live to see 45.

In 1950 Communist China invaded Tibet with three purposes in mind: to "liberate" the Tibetan people from lifelong "serfdom"; to capture the area's natural resources, including — it is claimed — the world's largest uranium deposit; and to create a large industrial and military wedge between its then enemies, Russia and India.

While the rest of China is growing fat and prosperous under the new economic policies and the opening to the West, Tibet has all the classic symptoms of a mismanaged colony.

Its delicate subsistence economy was destroyed with China's occupation. Propped early last year, war and instability had increased.

He was apparently carrying a message on behalf of the President of Mozambique, Mr. Samora Machel, to whom he made a private visit before leaving for China, and who has

subsidies from Peking. Tibet has never developed any real industrial base. Its people are poor and generally still resentful of their Chinese masters.

China's efforts to "liberate" the kingdom of the Dalai Lama drove the god-king into exile in India, but it has also served to fuel the Tibetans' religious fervour and loyalty to their leader.

The only real achievement of the Chinese occupation is the military stronghold that they have managed to build in the region. Despite the lack of local cooperation, China has poured hundreds of thousands of troops into the area.

Peking's occupation has cost the Chinese dearly. It can be measured in massive subsidies poured into Tibet over the last three decades, and more recently in the bad publicity the Tibet question has generated. But the greatest cost has been borne by the Tibetans.

Fishi Chupel has been a monk for 42 of his 53 years, studying and graduating at Drepung monastery on the outskirts of Lhasa in the days when it was the world's largest monastery. For monks, he has an unusually large and muscular physique — the result of 20 years spent breaking rocks as a prisoner of China.

In 1959, at the age of 27, Monk Yi, like many of the monks around Lhasa, left the monastery and discarded the Buddhist vow of non-violence to take up arms against the Chinese to protect the Dalai Lama.

The uprising, which lasted 11 days, led to the execution of monks, officials and peasant defenders of the Dalai Lama, who fled to India in the early hours of the revolt.

Stripped of political rights and religious robes, Monk Yi was lucky to survive, yet he says his only fear was that he would never see the Dalai Lama again.

"At the time, they said I was a guard of the 14th Dalai Lama, so I spent my days quarrying stone and in the evenings I would be locked in a small room. During this time I was often sick and my greatest fear was that I might die without seeing the Dalai Lama during my life."

According to the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile, the 1959 killings, together with deaths during the Cultural Revolution, wiped out one-sixth of Tibetans more than one million people. In 1980, it estimated that 10 per cent of the population had been interned at some stage during their lives.

The Chinese occupation has been characterised by a series of ill-considered extremist policies. But the Tibetans, despite heavy coercion, have steadfastly refused to cooperate because of China's failure to bring off the planned economic miracle in Tibet.

The traditional economy was lost when China first occupied the country during the 1950s, precipitating the first famine in the country's history, when scarce food supplies were allocated to Chinese troops and workers.

Then for 10 years, during the Cultural Revolution, following Mao's fetish for "taking grain as the key link," Tibetans were forced to cultivate winter wheat in place of the traditional hill barley

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they had grown for centuries on the arid plateau.

The poverty these policies brought still plagues the Tibetans. In 1980, China's Ministry of Agriculture admitted that one-third of Tibetans had lower living standards than before the occupation.

Although barley is once again growing on the terraces of Tibet, much of the land has been exhausted by the constant use of fertilisers used to coax the high-yielding wheat to fruition during the Cultural Revolution.

Tibet remains essentially a non-cash, agricultural economy and Tibetans remain essentially interested in herding their yaks and growing barley. But even in this sector, growth is meagre and resources stretched after four years of drought.

Ever since the occupation, the economy has been in a state of stagnation. Since 1959, these amounts to nearly \$3 billion.

Because the region has no industrial base, much of the funds from Peking are devoted simply to purchasing manufactured goods from Peking in Tibet Administration funds, which have been increased 10 times since 1952, amounting to 54 per cent of the region's industrial output.

To match the national target set by China's five-year plan, the country's output by 2000, Tibet will need a further \$1.5 billion in subsidies.

Yet some Chinese officials, asked about Tibet's economic plight, have unabashedly blamed the "backwardness of the fraternal minority nationality" — that is, the Tibetans themselves.

Issues such as unrest between Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

Censorship was applied previously to Sri Lankan news coverage of attacks by guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state and operations by security forces.

In parliament, the opposition called on the Government to resign over the guerrilla violence and demanded an investigation into the massacre of civilians in the holy city of Anuradhapura.

About 500 saffron-robed monks sat on the pavement near the parliament buildings and waved yellow and white flags in protest against the killing of about 150 people by guerrillas in the holy city nine days ago.

Tamil debate censored

Colombo: Censorship was imposed yesterday on all news reports of a debate in Sri Lanka's parliament over the growing separatist guerrilla violence.

The Speaker, Mr. E. L. Senanayake, said that it would apply to local and foreign news coverage. He did not give details. Tight security was imposed at parliament when the two-day debate began on a government motion seeking approval for an extension of a national state of emergency for another month.

Police threw a cordon around the parliament area, and public galleries were closed when members started the debate. Censorship has been applied to parliamentary proceedings before on sensitive

issues such as unrest between Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

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How to avoid getting stuck in the wrong career.

You start at a disadvantage.

Aged 21, or younger, you are expected to pick a career that will shape the rest of your life.

How unreasonable.

After all, would you marry a girl you'd never met? Or buy a house you'd never seen?

It's just as foolish to plunge into a career you know nothing about.

There's not much point in discovering, halfway up the ladder in, say, banking, that you'd rather be making documentary films.

Or serving abroad with the Foreign Office.

Ten years hence, you'll probably have a mortgage and a young family.

It will be, in the words of the song, much too late for goodbye.

First, find out what you're good at.

Ideally, you wouldn't specialise straightaway.

You'd spend your first few years exploring different jobs.

Finding out what excites and what bores you. What you're good at and what you should definitely avoid. (As Somerset Maugham said, only the mediocre are always at their best.)

Above all, you'd discover what you most enjoy doing. Then you'd stick at it.

Unfortunately, with three million out of work, nobody can afford to flit from job to job.

Yet there is no single career that can give you the variety of work experience you need.

Or is there?

We'll coax your talents out of hiding.

As well as soldiering, an Army Officer can find himself tackling unusual jobs.

Making documentary films. Serving with the Foreign Office. Training to be an astronaut. Practising law. Writing books and magazine articles. Leading an Himalayan expedition. Solving land disputes. Teaching degree courses. Conserving wildlife in the Antarctic. Acting as equerries to the Royal Family. Organising disaster relief. Devising computer programs. Building bridges and airfields. Underwater archaeological exploration.

The list could go on to fill the rest of this page.

Think about it. What other career could allow you to develop in so many different directions?

Broadening the mind.

Our work takes us all over the world. Places like Berlin and Hong Kong could be familiar territory.

You would live and work in them, not just visit as a tourist.

But don't expect life to be one long holiday.

You might well serve in Northern Ireland.

Or on the tense East/West German border.

We may send you to the snake-infested jungles of Belize. (You'll need a machete and your wits about you.)

Picture yourself trekking out of Kathmandu to pay pensions to retired Gurkha warriors.

Officers serving with the Gurkhas must speak Gurkhali. So we'd teach you.

We could also teach you Arabic, Chinese, German, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. (Not to mention quite a few computer languages.)

Room at the top.

Naturally, we hope most of the young men we train will make their long term careers with us.

But we've had our share of failures.

Several very promising officers have, for instance, gone on to become Prime Ministers.

(Six out of the nine post-war British Prime Ministers served as Army Officers.)

Others deserted us for big business.

(At the last count, the heads of 32 of the top 100 companies in the UK.)

All these renegades recognise the value of an Army training.

So if, after three, five or eight years, you leave us, you will have impeccable credentials.

And a very clear idea of how you want your career to develop.

An advertisement can only begin to touch on the huge variety of an Army Officer's work.

Someone who can tell you more is Major John Floyd.

Write to him at Empress State Building, Army Officer Entry, Department A4, Lillie Rd., London SW6 1TR.

He'll want to know your date of birth, where you are currently studying and the qualifications you have or expect.

In return he'll help you get details of the hundred and one careers that await you as an Army Officer.



Army Officer



The trial of 19 men accused of participating in the killing in October, 1983, of Grenada's Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, right, is due to start this month. From various sources, including statements to the police, MORRIS S. THOMPSON has pieced together the events of that day. His most significant finding is that the executions were carried out on orders from the central committee of the ruling New Jewel Movement, headed by Bishop's deputy, Bernard Coard, above

The day Grenada's leader went to the wall

THE DAY had dawned clear and bright. Redhead, then 22, said that members of Coard's faction of the party began to gather at Fort Rupert as early as 145 am. That day businesses were closed and schoolchildren went out on strike in support of a pro-Bishop demonstration led by foreign minister Unison Whiteman and other government ministers who resigned in protest of the anti-Bishop moves. Bishop had been confined to his house a week earlier by a faction of his ruling New Jewel Movement party, under the leadership of Bernard Coard.

At about 8 am, a crowd of 6,000 to 10,000 people unusual on this island-nation of about 92,000, marched from Market Square, near Fort Rupert, up the hill to Bishop's house. The central committee had gathered at Bernard Coard's house next door and as the first 300 or so protesters arrived at Bishop's gate, one of the committee members, Lt. Col. Ewart Layne, 25, ordered — according to his statement — three armoured personnel carriers to come and deal with the crowd. But the full crowd at Bishop's residence overwhelmed the soldiers, who fired into the air. Abdullah (First Lieutenant Callistus Bernard) said: "The crowd continued booing and saying, 'Shoo us'. Then they burst into Maurice's house and brought him out holding him

high in the air and went down the road with him. The armoured cars then left and went back to Fort Frederick."

The crowd swarmed down the hill with Bishop and Jacqueline Creft, minister of education and Bishop's lover — who later told her executioners that she was three months pregnant with their second child — and some of the other former cabinet ministers and labour leaders who had organised the demonstration. Most of the crowd backed off, but about 2,000 people overran Fort Rupert without arms and did not meet armed resistance.

Lt. Col. Ewart Layne said that on his recommendation, the central committee went to Fort Frederick. Major Leon Cornwall arrived at Camp Fodon on Port Calivigny, south-east of the city, and dispatched two truckloads of soldiers in full combat gear to Fort Frederick. Pvt. Cosmos Richardson said in his statement: "Meanwhile, Major Christopher Stroude, then 28, who was in command of Fort Rupert, said that Fitzroy Bain, a pro-Bishop member of the central committee who had helped lead the demonstration, told him that pro-Coard members already had surrendered to the crowd and so Stroude ordered the soldiers to lay down their weapons. Layne said he saw the

crowd far below take Fort Rupert and telephoned Stroude. Layne claimed that Stroude told him the crowd "had destroyed military documents and had abused the female soldiers, that the situation was one of fatal chaos and that they were afraid for their lives."

Layne said he also spoke with foreign minister Whiteman on the phone, and he said Whiteman refused more negotiations. Stroude said Bishop told him that he wanted negotiations to take place "right here in the operations room" and that he wanted Coard gaoled immediately. Bishop added, Stroude said, that the army could continue but that Layne and Cornwall must surrender. According to Stroude, Bishop said that Layne "was a blood-thirsty maniac, since in a party meeting he was calling for Coard to be executed and expelled from the party and also to be court-martialled. He said that there will be a new type of army. When I asked about the party, he told me that it will continue as usual."

Redhead said that he had gone from Fort Rupert to Coard's house when he saw the crowd approach Bishop's house, found the central committee there and was sent in search of tear gas to defend Fort Rupert. He said that by the time he got back to Fort Rupert with the tear gas, the crowd had already overrun it.

He said he laid down his rifle on Stroude's order and that he and Stroude went on Fitzroy Bain's request, to talk with Bishop in the operations room.

Bishop, Redhead said, "came over and asked me, 'What is the position?' I told him that it was time to compromise and put an end to the situation and let the army remain as an army and let us try and get all of the people off the fort. Maurice said 'No. So I asked him if I could report the situation to Lt. Col. Layne or Major Cornwall and he said 'No... he wanted them arrested immediately.' Layne said 'we got a message that weapons were being

handed out at Fort Rupert said that Bishop and labor leader Vincent Noel had issued orders 'to eliminate the whole central committee, in particular myself, General Austin and Comrade Coard.' Layne said he called Austin (General Hudson Austin, the Grenada army chief outside and 'put it to him that the only way to save the revolution and the party was to move to recapture Fort Rupert and for the military to take control for a short period.' Austin disagreed, Layne said, but 'he allowed me to have my way, recognizing the tremendous respect I have amongst the men and that

even he was paralysed in this situation. It was from there on I would say that I took over the situation completely."

Then Layne said, he called Officer Cadet Connie Mayers and told him whom he wanted on the mission and to dispatch the three armoured personnel carriers to retake Fort Rupert. "If there was resistance, then them was to battle it out and the leaders were to be liquidated."

Inside Fort Rupert, some weapons were being handed out. Osborne Alexander, who shortly after the 1979 revolution had been one of Bishop's bodyguards, has said the best for the protection of the fort when the group went down Market Square to speak to the crowd.

Outside, the armoured personnel carriers arrived. Abdullah said: "As soon as we reached the bottom of the hill to go to Fort Rupert, some civilian opened fire from the direction of the fort and shot and killed one of the soldiers on the armoured car which O.C. Mayers was in charge of. Immediately a rocket was fired from O.C. Mayers' armoured car and machine gunners opened fire towards the crowd."

"I jumped off my car and fired some rounds," Abdullah said. "We advanced towards Fort Rupert and the crowds started dispersing. Vehicles started burning; this was caused by the rocket launcher. I told Major

Stroude to take charge of the fort and restore order." Said Abdullah: "I remained at Fort Rupert because we had instructions that Maurice Bishop and the other members of the party with him were to be executed by gun fire. I knew that they were to be executed before I left Fort Frederick. When I was at Fort Frederick, I knew that the central committee had met and Lt. Headache Layne told me that the decision was to execute Bishop and the people with him."

Central committee member McBurnette said that he was present at a meeting in which the central committee decided that the people should retake Fort Rupert. The armoured cars left and about 25 minutes later, Iman Abdullah returned to Fort Frederick and spoke to Ewart Layne. The central committee then held a meeting and it was agreed by all the committee members there that Comrade Bishop and his clique must be executed. All of the army officers — Ewart Layne, Leon Cornwall know whom they spoke to, Iman Abdullah had left also."

At Fort Rupert, Redhead said: "A lot of people were leaving the compound and I joined other people in telling the people to leave the compound with their hands in the air. At the same time, I saw Jacqueline Creft, Maurice Bishop, Unison Whiteman and Norris Bain walking away from the square so I said 'Halt' and they halted; I directed them up the steps and they came. Abdullah told them to turn against the wall and take off their shirts. Layne said he was taking off her shirt and I said: 'No, let the sister keep on her jersey.' Abdullah told me that the chief said that they must be executed."

Stroude said that as Redhead was marching people up the steps, he "was stating in execution time. I responded, 'Cool', knowing that it was only the central committee that can take that decision and that he was in contact with them the same morning."

Abdullah said: "I lined them up facing the wall. Major Stroude and Captain Redhead were behind me and we all had weapons. Stroude and Redhead had AKs and I had an M-3 submachine-gun. Captain Redhead then told (pro-Bishop central committee members) Brat Bullen and (Evelyn) Maitland (a man) to go and join Maurice and the others in the square, and he went and lined up facing the wall. Some person also sent (Bishop supporter) Keith Hayling, and he joined them."

Stroude said: "Sister Creft said that she was three months pregnant, but Vincent Joseph responded with some terrible remarks such as 'What the... you doing up here', and 'is bullet for you.' A few moments later, after Creft had asked in vain for the soldiers to wait, the shooting started. Gabriel said: "Abdullah had a small piece of paper in his hand, he said, 'The central committee has made the decision'... he said to the two machine-gunners (almost certainly Andy Mitchell and Vincent Joseph) 'Prepare to fire.' They lifted the machine gun off the ground up to their chests. Abdullah cocked his SMC gun and reckoned... 'One, two, three, fire.'"

The bullet-riddled bodies were wrapped in blankets, placed in a dump truck and driven to an army camp south of the capital, St. George's. They were piled up in a common grave, doused with petrol and burned. — NEWSDAY.



THIRD COLUMN

A cut above

LAST February the Iranian Supreme Judicial Council announced the invention, by a team of medical and technological experts, of an electric guillotine for chopping off the hands and fingers of those sinners whose punishment was so ordained in the 1400-year-old Islamic Code of Justice. The new machine, said the Judicial Council, was a major technological advance in that it does its job quickly and without pain.

Later in April, the Iranian courts were reported to have sentenced five thieves each to have one of their hands chopped off, two people to be stoned to death for adultery, and 100 people to be flogged in public for "illegitimate" sex. Soon after the Judicial Council confirmed that all these sentences, had been carried out.

Horrorifying as the news was, I became interested in the identity of the inventors of the electric guillotine. I read in a Paris newspaper that they were a handful of skilled technicians and highly qualified surgeons who probably saw no contradiction between their service to the Judicial Council and the ethics of their own profession.

Although it is fair to say that they do not represent the majority of surgeons and technicians, they are another case of the many specialists and experts who have, in one way or another, compromised with the regime and have remained in their well-paid jobs. Yet the price that they have had to pay for such a deal is also very high.

A good example is the dilemma of an Iranian friend who came to London for a short visit last year. He told me that he had a good salary. He was able to come out of the country and return. He was unaffected by the general shortage of consumer goods because he was able to buy what he wanted from the so-called free market.

He came home with a suitcase and a plastic bag in which he was carrying his dirty clothes that he had changed in the aeroplane. The next day he was told that I had washed and ironed them he was really cross.

He said he could not wear them in the streets of Tehran because they would show to be too clean for a man loyal to the Islamic regime; they would betray him to the Hezbollah, members of the Islamic Revolution Guard, and other things, are instructed by the Iranian authorities to punish on the spot those whose appearance does not conform to the Islamic principles.

These principles include long and thick scarves and uniforms that cover all parts of a woman's body except for her hands and face. For men, they allow for dirty looking trousers, long sleeved shirts, short and preferably uncombed hair, with an unshaven face.

Disregard for any of these principles may result in flogging or possible even being stoned to death.

The Hezbollah have recently stepped up their activities. They raid shops in search of music cassettes and discs, their brutal musical instrument they can find and "punish" the owners, and they raid doctors' surgeries in case the patients or even the doctors have failed to observe Islamic principles.

They raid cinemas in search of films showing women without veils, or men wearing shorts. At the seaside they make sure that no men and women are swimming together. Music halls, nightclubs and almost all of the theatres have had to close because of them, and with a ban on television and network void of music and light entertainment, people have nowhere to go.

The London-based Farsi Kayhan has published parts of a recent speech by Mir Hossein Mousavi, the Iranian prime minister, whereby he admits that the Hezbollah have raided a taxi in which a woman relative of his was sitting in the front seat. They told her to get out and sit in the back where women are allowed.

But not all the women are as lucky as a prime minister's relative. Many end up in prison for showing a little bit of their hair to the public.

These are the prices that the newly emerged Iranian middle class have to pay for what they see as their relative comfort. Some, like those who invented the electric guillotine, have turned themselves into mindless tools for the execution of certain brutal policies; others are brutalised and deeply depressed.

Abbas Seangar

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NORTH/SOUTH

Star of the east

BEI DAO is China's finest contemporary poet. This week-end's GLC Spring Festival exhibition shows translations of work by him and others illustrated by an exquisite photographic essay by Mumtaz Karimjee (who did these trans-

lations too) who studied in China during the Democracy Movement (1978-80) when Bai Dao, Gu Cheng and a woman poet, Shu Ting, came to prominence.

Then their work was published in the unofficial literary journal Today and subsequently has been widely published in various official Chinese literary magazines. Poems and photographs have strong rural themes and the delicate images of traditional Chinese painting.

SLEEP, VALLEY
Sleep, valley
Quickly cover the sky with blue mist
Cover the wild lilies' pale eyes
Sleep, valley
Quickly use the wind to chase away the foot-
steps of the rain
To chase away the cuckoo's uneasy cry

Sleep, valley
We hide here
Like hiding in a thousand year old dream
Time no longer slides over blades of grass
The sun's pendulum stops behind layers of
clouds
No longer shaking down the glow of sunset and
dawn's first light

Dear Reader,
You can't tell all the news to your
overseas friends on a postcard or
letter so why not send them The
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that contains the best from the
Guardian plus a selection from both
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Pipe of peace

NEXT week's world wide campaign for Latin America's Disappeared Prisoners starts in London with a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tonight highlighting player of pan pipes, Roger Chavez and his Peruvian band Condor Sumac. The week of action is organised from Venezuela — virtually the only country in Latin America which does not have a grisly record of "disappeared" prisoners.

by BEI DAO
Spinning forests
Tossing down countless hard pine cones
Protect two trails of footprints
Together our childhood and the seasons
Walked this winding path
Pollen drenched the brambles
Ah, how quiet
A stone, thrown out, has no echo
Perhaps, you are searching for something
— from heart to heart
A rainbow rises silently
From eye to eye
Sleep, valley
Sleep, wind
Valley, sleep in the blue mist
Wind, sleep in our palms

IN THE PAST quarter-century, huge transfers of capital and technology have led to a tremendous extension of resource use and resource enjoyment patterns in the Third World, where the present and probable future food situation must be examined in the context of expanding capitalist control.

The tendency of western development planners and of Third World nationalists trained in their methods has been to take a piecemeal approach towards hunger alleviation. Thus, instead of seeing the food problem as a function of a chain, or system which begins with inputs (physical as well as intangible, eg. research and credit), proceeds through food production per se, and continues through the storage, processing and distribution phases before reaching the final consumer, planners have tended to focus on one or another isolated aspect of the system.

The question "Who is in control?" may be answered with examples chosen at random from any point along the food system chain; one might begin at the beginning with seeds. Seeds can be selected for maximum yield (given suitable and costly inputs) or for maximum reliability under a stringent climatic conditions. They may lend themselves to easy self-reproduction or may deteriorate from year to year (eg. hybrid corn); they may be geared to plants containing maximum nutritional value, or, as in some developed countries, to the needs of mechanical harvesters.

If peasants controlled current research and reproduction of seeds, it is likely that

DEVELOPMENT

Out of control

Susan George accuses western agribusiness of blotting out traditional food and land systems

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If peasants controlled current research and reproduction of seeds, it is likely that

they would ask for, and get, such characteristics as reliability rather than maximum yield, reproducibility rather than deterioration, and high energy / nutritional value. Because seed research and reproduction have been largely under the control of industrialised countries, such characteristics have not generally been sought.

One highly significant aspect of this issue of control is the exercise by rural elites and chiefs over poorer peasants: in village after village, a tiny local power elite holds sway over credit, marketing, access to water and other essential services, employment (including that of family members), not to mention the use of the land itself under a variety of more or less extortionate tenancy and sharecropping arrangements.

Such power has now been widely recognised; even governments which have done little or nothing by rural systems the balance pay lip-service to the concept of greater equality and realise that top-heavy power structures act as a "political constraint" on food production.

A less widely acknowledged aspect is the increasing degree of control that developed country food systems exert over those of the Third World.

Many crops formerly produced in the temperate zones for temperate-zone customers are now more cheaply grown in tropical countries. Traditional cash crops have been joined by exports of luxury foods — many of them perishables — and animal foodstuffs.

The penetration of indigenous Third World food systems is largely, though by no means exclusively, carried out by transnational agribusiness corporations. These companies generally no longer wish to exercise direct control over Third World land, but gain a stronger hold over activities.

Operations entailing risk like farming itself, are left to the LDCs and their peasants, while more profitable operations such as processing, marketing, and the provision of inputs, credit, or management skills are carried out by foreign corporate interests. The latter have also recently

shown a strong interest in providing storage facilities. When industrialised countries intervene in the food systems of Third World nations, they are not merely providing separate items and techniques, nor even a "package" of technology with the help of their foundations, their universities, their corporations, and their banks, they are transferring a dominant model, which, over time, will tend to become unique as it blots out and absorbs the rich variety of peasant practices.

Palms up, but for how long? Picture by Sophie Baker

The actual producers of food — the overwhelmingly rural majorities of the Third World — are being progressively divested of their control over what they shall produce, by what methods, and of the resulting harvest.

These extracts are from Dr. George's book *Ill Fares The Land* (Writers and Readers.)

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Hammering out the road to the nineties

Tony Benn

SERIOUS socialists should, now as always, analyse the current political situation, and how we should respond. We should be discussing the future of socialism, nationally and internationally, at a depth we have neglected in the recent past.

We should also be working, as I believe we are, to secure an outright Labour victory at the next general election and considering in detail the way that government should deal with the situation likely to face it.

We should not be wasting our time with divisive political gossip, nor spreading false rumours that some members of the party want to lose the next election as a way of moving it to the left; and those who peddle such stories, or hint darkly at non-existent conspiracies designed to undermine the leadership, or destroy democratic rights, are consciously misleading people for their own purposes.

The first thing that social-

ists must do is to understand the nature of the debates taking place on the left.

It is now popular to suggest that the root cause of present troubles lies in the emergence of a new philosophy called Thatcherism. "Get rid of her," goes the line, "and all will be well."

That view is unscientific, defeatist and dangerous first because it ignores the fact that the real crisis we face is in capitalism itself, and second because it leads, inevitably, to the idea that our only hope is to ally ourselves with anyone at all who is opposed to the present prime minister and her policies.

But it should be becoming plain that the Establishment is itself now moving strongly against Mrs Thatcher, not because she did not like her policies, for they have supported them steadfastly for six years, but because they now fear that public opposition to them is growing so rapidly that they might be a Labour landslide, paving the way to a degree of socialism, and they fear that even more.

It is they, therefore, fearing Labour's strength, who are seeking to build up an

anti-Thatcherite alliance of their own, led by the Tory Wets, the SDP and the Liberals and hoping to detach the right-wing of the Labour party too, as we saw with the announcement of the Employment Charter a few weeks ago.

What we are really witnessing is a determined conservative attempt to return to the failed post-war consensus in order to protect the traditional order, but also, equally, to marginalize and exorcise socialism.

Their objective is to leave the electors with the old Victorian choice between Liberals and Conservatives, or the current American choice between Democrats and Republicans — which is no choice at all.

Socialists must be absolutely clear about the need to give principled support to those who are actually standing up for their jobs and services and rights against the attacks that are now being mounted against them. Those who are most directly concerned must decide what action they should take, but when they do take action, they should be able to rely upon our backing.

The strategy of the estab-

lishment and the media is to divide working people by trying to set the employed against the unemployed; men against women; white against black; the old against the young; teachers against pupils, the north against the south; Catholics against Protestants; Notts miners against Yorkshire miners and everyone against trade unions, foreigners, Marxists and gays and Labour's task must be to unite them.

We must also defend those whose principled stand brings them up against the law. There is no virtue in law-breaking for its own sake, nor is it sensible to elevate it into some test of political virility, but we all should understand by now that though there is a clear legal obligation to obey the law, there is no moral obligation whatsoever to cooperate with an unjust law.

Most of our religious and political rights were won by principled law-breaking, and the general public are shrewd enough to understand the distinction between criminal, and moral, law-breaking, and have some respect for those who are motivated by principle.

It is by supporting them

that socialists can also help to build unity around the basic issues that most concern people.

Nobody believes that industrial action, not even a one-day general strike—which should have been considered in defence of the NGA, GCHQ and the miners—or other forms of direct resistance, will, of themselves, bring the present government down, but they are still important forms of action for those who decide that they must protect themselves.

We should never forget that such actions also build confidence—as we saw with the Women's Action groups during the miners' strike—and provide essential two-way political education which helped to develop understanding in all parts of the labour movement, left, right, and centre including Labour MPs.

All socialists should be taking an active part in discussing how we can best win majority support for socialism.

The time is not far distant when the party will have to consider calling a major constitutional conference—as in 1918—to widen its own politi-

cal base by re-opening the affiliation list, especially for women's and ethnic organizations, just as the unions are now affiliated; accept a more open and federal structure; and return to the still unresolved problem of the arms-length relationship between the party and its parliamentarians.

Underlying all these questions, lies the greatest question of all, namely what does socialism mean for this generation in the nineties and beyond.

There are many answers on the left, and one of the most powerful arguments against expulsions is that we shall have to listen to a wide range of opinions, from all sorts of socialists, if we are to get it right; and it is just not good enough to dismiss those with whom we do not agree as vandals, defectors, or extremists; or for that matter as traitors, careerists or cowards.

If we are serious in our desire to improve the prospects for those whom we represent, we should also remember that socialist resolutions have, of themselves, never caused the establishment to lose any sleep, be-

cause, like sermons, they may sound good, but there is no guarantee that any action will follow from them.

What the establishment really fears is any sustained challenge to its power, by insistent demands for more democracy, and, when those challenges are made, there is usually a great deal more public interest and support than anyone is ever allowed to know.

Most socialists believe that we shall never make progress until we have tackled their control of the power structure, and that one of the reasons that we are in trouble is precisely because previous Labour governments never did so.

If socialism is to win public support in the future it must be seen as leading to an extension of democracy, in the economic and social, as well as the political sphere, and is not only about putting Labour ministers into office, important as that is.

Tony Benn is Labour MP for Chesterfield. This article is extracted from *An Agenda for Socialists* which appears in the current issue of *New Socialist*.

POINTS OF ORDER

THE present government is by no means the first in history to grapple with the difficult problem of how to dress up what looks like failure and present it as success. But there is something very special about the way Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues are trying to perform this familiar trick.

After serious thought, Lord Whitelaw and Mr Bernard Ingham, the prime minister's press secretary, have come up with the remarkable idea that departmental ministers should stop complaining about the spending cuts the Treasury is asking them to implement. Instead, they should start boasting about the increases in expenditure they have initiated.

Sources close to Mr Ingham, as we say in the lobby, now suggest that the very same ministers who were recently paraded before the Cabinet as foot-dragging failures in the hunt for essential economies should now be wheeled out into the sunlight as triumphant successes.

This play presents a number of difficulties, however. One of them is that the simple British voter, short though his memory is, is alleged to be, cannot have entirely forgotten all that stuff about not solving problems by throwing money at them. If he is now to be told that you can do what you like, he may possibly turn to those who believe in the idea rather than those who do it by mistake.

But an even more immediate difficulty is that Willie and Bernard do not seem to have got their message through to the Prime Minister yet. If her speech to the Tory Women's conference on Wednesday meant anything, it meant that the idea is still not for turning. But you can't tell the supporters of Mr Francis Pym that they are faint-hearted and fair-weather friends, and then add in the next breath: "Anyway, we're already doing all that."

Why pensions cannot be left to Fowler

Charles Kennedy

NORMAN Fowler's self-proclaimed far-reaching reviews of our social security system have degenerated into a squalid exercise in political horse-trading between the Treasury and the DES. An inadequate period of scrutiny, some sham nods in the direction of public consultation, the strait-jacketing stipulation of zero revenue implications (thereby precluding examination of the hidden welfare state provided by various tax benefits) all now seriously undermine the validity of the claim that these are the most fundamental reviews of our Welfare State since Beveridge.

It need not have been so. The Government could, and should have pursued a course throughout which sought consensus on the matter. After all, a singular feature of traditional Conservative flexibility and adaptability was their accommodation during their last long period of power, from 1951 to 1964, of the basic tenets of the Welfare State, established in the aftermath of 1945.

Such cross-party convergence on this basic yet crucial aspect of domestic politics reached its apogee when under so-called Butskellism. Yet today, sadly, such consensus is lost — and the increasing numbers of citizens dependent on the contracted-in scheme will be the losers. Significantly, the newly

Public trust is clearly essential to any coherent sense of contract between State and citizen. Where the issue at stake involves the well-being of at least 11 million of those citizens the case is overwhelming.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, himself an active pioneer in the pensions agreement of 1975, first voiced the Government's doubts as to the future costs of SERPS in a speech as Chancellor in 1981, wondering aloud whether in the far-distant future, expenditure on pensions could well provoke serious tensions.

In subsequent exchanges assurances were given by Government Ministers, most notably the Prime Minister himself, to the effect that there were no plans to alter the earnings-related element of State pensions.

Furthermore, when announcing to Parliament in November 1983 the Pensions Inquiry, Norman Fowler categorically stated: "My aim in setting-up an inquiry is not to call into question the fundamental pensions structure that was established in the 1970s with all-party agreement, and to which I was a party."

However, a week is a long time in politics! In a recent Commons debate, where I specifically quoted this reference back at the Secretary of State, he responded by stating that I would "have to judge all the statements that I... have made against the criterion of what is proposed. It is ludicrous to try to seek to define what that is because the hon. Gentleman cannot see the whole picture."

Exactly. The ludicrousness of the present situation is entirely due to the cloak and dagger machinations which have gone on within Whitehall and the Cabinet itself — and to which neither backbench Tory MPs nor the Alliance and Labour oppositions have been a party.

The future of SERPS should therefore be discussed frankly on an all-party basis. As Leader of the House of Commons with an overriding responsibility to all Parliamentary interests, and also as one who enjoys status and access as a member of Cabinet privy to the debate so far, I am one which will expect a role to play here.

It is surely not too late for his influence, alongside that of Sir Geoffrey Howe, to prevail over the current path of obduracy, expediency and downright stupidity.

Ministers must understand only too well that the route now being followed will lead to political controversy and economic uncertainty.

There is no doubt that a legitimate debate is essential as SERPS burgeoning future financial demands are set against Britain's continuing historic economic decline. Alternatives ranging from restructuring and modification, within a market economy encompassing wider share ownership, through to high flat-rate increases in the basic pension need to be examined.

But all of these demand reasoned discussion across the political spectrum — for which Mr Fowler's Cabinet slide show is no substitute. If the Government does not change course on this issue now before their eventual announcement and Green Paper, then Mrs Thatcher's nightmare of Britain sitting on a social security time bomb — one which will explode dramatically beneath the fortunes of the Conservative Party at the next General Election. And deservedly so.

Charles Kennedy is SDP MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, and his party's spokesman on Social Services.



The best centre-forward on the field

A game-plan for England

TONY BALDREY

WHEN I was first asked if I would be interested in a group working on policies for the next general election, I thought it was going to be something akin to the One Nation group.

It was only when I read the Sunday Times announcement of the birth of Centre Forward, setting out the group's tactics, that I realised how it was really intended to operate. I knew immediately that it was all going to be a mess... so it has proved.

Friends are divided by a group which is seen, however unfairly, to be divisive. This sort of divisiveness has plagued the Labour Party for years, but is unprecedented in the Conservative Party. So what are the lessons to be learned?

First, I think people have to realise that simply because one may wish to criticise some aspects of Government policy, it does not mean that one dislikes Margaret Thatcher. Alas, a few of the Centre Forward MPs give the impression that they are not so much interested in winning the argument as wounding the Prime Minister. But there are those of us who are determined to win the argument and equally determined not to wound the Prime Minister.

If one wants changes in direction and changes in policy, they are going to have to be argued for positively and logically. To be taken seriously, it is no good for those of us who believe in pragmatic Conservatism simply making wide-ranging speeches critical of government without offering practical and positive alternatives.

It is all the more important now to have clear concise and constructive arguments, as the media are only too keen to use any inarticulate dissent in the Conservative ranks to bolster the Alliance, which makes a more interesting political scenario and thus better copy. As well as the standard shuffie story, it also gives them the "What will happen if there is a hung parliament" story.

For the Liberals, Social Democrats, Employment Institute economists, etc life is amazingly simple. "Unemployment is too high, and now

the Government should tackle unemployment simply by spending more and borrowing more." This inevitably means taxing more, although they don't mention this.

The reality is somewhat different. To succeed, we need to become increasingly competitive. We shall not be able to do this unless we have a more competitive business environment to reduce the share of the national cake taken by the State.

We don't want more public spending, we want better public spending. And here lies the rub — we pragmatic Conservatives have allowed ourselves to be portrayed not as wanting bold, innovative, ship-repairing or car-building industry-led in this country.

It is entirely possible for government to intervene con-

structively to promote partnership with British manufacturers to help win crucial overseas orders without getting dragged down into some subsidy quagmire.

There is also much that can be done that does not need an extra penny of public money. The problems of Britain's contributions to the Community budget, having been resolved, we should now vigorously set about ensuring a truly free market within Europe.

In an increasingly protectionist world, Europe must lead the way in practising and promoting free trade. Europeans acting together through the European Monetary system have a much stronger change of influencing the American dollar, stabilising exchange rates, and thus assisting industry.

Over the past few years a quiet revolution has been taking place in home ownership, share ownership and employee involvement. Much more can be done to promote participation and give people a stake in the community.

It is time to hit on the head once and for all any idea that wets are whingers, rather than "wets" stands for "Wanting England To Succeed" and wanting to promote the policies that will ensure that success.

Tony Baldrey is Conservative MP for Banbury.

real changes that the Cabinet seeks to make. No wonder the term "wet" sticks.

Better public spending means an overhaul of the Welfare State to ensure that benefit is targeted to where it is most needed, and where possible, money saved so that there is more to invest in the infrastructure, enabling British business to compete more effectively.

Only competitive business will provide the jobs we need and the wealth to fund a caring society.

Conservatives have never believed simply in leaving everything to the market, have never been a party of laissez-faire. If it had been left to the market, there would be no shipbuilding, ship-repairing or car-building industry left in this country.

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structively to promote partnership with British manufacturers to help win crucial overseas orders without getting dragged down into some subsidy quagmire.

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Tony Baldrey is Conservative MP for Banbury.

The ludicrousness of the situation is due to cloak and dagger machinations

formed Conservative Centre Forward group recognises this — and emphasises the need for welfare reform requiring a broad spectrum of public support. But not so the Government.

Nowhere has this failure by the Government become more apparent than in the discussions which have surrounded the future of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. And nowhere in there a stronger case for properly pursuing a path of cross-party consultation.

Until the Pensions Act of 1975 the political history of State support for those in retirement had not been auspicious. The 1975 Act was the third attempt in six years at legislative improvements of the 1946 Beveridge Scheme (which had been further developed by Boyd-Carpenter in 1961). It succeeded where the previous efforts by Crossman and Joseph failed, by recognising, seeking and achieving cross-party support.

The drawback which had hitherto dogged pension legislation — the issue had become an example of party political football at its worst — was thus overcome. It was a notable example of the 1970s of political parties agreeing to shelve their partisan positions and seek agreement for the good of the country as a whole.

Now, it seems, we are once again to degenerate back into the ignoble and profoundly damaging rituals of party politics where SERPS is concerned. In creating the conditions for this demise the Government has much to answer for.

If the ethic of democratically elected Parliamentary government means anything at all it surely implies a degree of continuity over issues where broad approval has been sought and won.

Public safety—the fire this time?



OUT OF COURT

Tristram Hodgkinson

FOR ANYONE who witnessed the scenes at Bradford City Football Club and asked themselves how it had been allowed to happen, the Wheatley Report of the In-

quiry into Crowd Safety at Sports Grounds (1972, Command 4922) makes interesting reading.

Published a year after the Ibrox Park disaster in Glasgow, it took a sober look at the possibility of future casualties and made proposals. First, it set out a campaign of legislative and policy priorities, and second, in its technical section, set particular standards which were suggested as guidelines for clubs in the safety aspects of their management.

The Wheatley Report was somewhat overshadowed by the Robens Report of the same year. The Inquiry into Safety and Health at Work (1972, Command 5034). One feature of the latter was its implicit philosophy of self-regulation — the presumption that responsibility for initiating and maintaining the necessary preventive measures lies with those whose premises or practices are unsafe. This is now.

The 1974 Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, which embodied the Robens philosophy in its provisions, preceded by a year the legislative product of the Wheat-

ley Report. The 1975 Safety of Sports Grounds Act.

The most notable aspect of the Wheatley Report as far as the Bradford fire itself is concerned, is the licensing system which it proposed. The 1975 Act empowered the Secretary of State to designate as requiring a local authority "safety certificate" any ground with a capacity of over 10,000 spectators. Prior to the events at Bradford City, the Secretary of State had chosen to designate only First and Second Division clubs, to the exclusion of those smaller clubs which could least afford, on a voluntary basis, to cover the high cost of safety improvements.

Lord Wheatley's view, however, had been clearly expressed in 1972. At paragraph 54 of his report he said it was unreasonable that all "minor" grounds should need licensing, but: "there is one qualification to this. If in such a ground there is a stand, it seems desirable that it should be made the subject of inspection in view of the possible risk of danger to spectators accommodated in it. Such a ground in my view should be licensed

even if only to protect the public from that one risk."

Wheatley proposed that such licences should be required to be applied for, on an annual basis. The Act, however, provides that, for the small number of grounds which must be licensed, a certificate may be awarded "during an indefinite period" (section 1 (3) (a)) if the licensing authority so chooses.

The figure of 10,000 spectators, the distinction between the first/second and third/fourth divisions does feature in the report, but not in the form in which it has subsequently resurfaced in the 1975 Act and by way of ministerial Order.

Wheatley proposed a phasing system in which phase 1 would include first and second division football clubs, third and fourth division clubs would be part of phase 2, with grounds (other than league football clubs) of over 10,000 capacity relegated to phase 3.

To be fair, Wheatley did not think the changes could be achieved overnight. But he can hardly have envisaged that 13 years hence, phase 2

would still not have been reached. At paragraph 70 of the report he said: "In the event of it being decided to introduce a licensing system, some time must elapse before the necessary legislation is passed and the system becomes operative. This, as I have indicated, will give both clubs and the ruling bodies time and opportunity to get ahead with changes which may be required..."

The envisaged time elapsed, of course, by 1975 with the passing of the Act. Since then, it is now apparent, less than impressive progress has been made.

The Government appears now to take a grave view of the matter, though the extent to which that will be diluted by the somewhat artificial link with law and order in Mr Justice Poplewell's remit remains to be seen.

Long-term action will never be effective, however, if it depends at its root, in an era of economic restraint and recession, on a philosophy of self-regulation.

Tristram Hodgkinson is a barrister.

Ian Aitken

A wasting asset at the NCB

The National Coal Board sacked 994 miners for their part in the unprecedentedly violent events of the pit strike. Of them 671 remain sacked. Mr Ian MacGregor, the Board chairman, stressed this week that there will be no general amnesty. Those sacked for serious acts of vandalism, violence or intimidation will stay sacked.

And what, one might be tempted to ask, is wrong with that? Widespread vandalism, violent attacks upon individuals and deliberate intimidation were marked and ugly features of the dispute — and they earned no condemnation from Mr Arthur Scargill. Further, almost one quarter of the union's membership worked throughout the strike. The Board had an obligation to protect and encourage those men, not leave them wide open to intimidation and abuse. Common sense dictates that no employer can be compelled to retain the services of those who burn his buses, smash his equipment and assault or threaten his staff.

Maybe so. But what is wrong with the MacGregor formula was revealed in some detail when first the union and then the NCB chairman appeared before the Commons Employment Committee on Wednesday. To begin at the beginning: it is not only those convicted of serious crimes who have been given the chop. Among the victims of MacGregor's law are people arrested and released without charge, people charged and found Not Guilty or Not Proven and those found guilty of trivial offences. Other dismissals have taken place (particularly since the return to work) on the basis of unproven allegations made by those who worked through the strike.

During the strike the Board's internal appeals machinery was suspended. There was precious little room for formal hearings before independent arbitrators amid daily scenes of near riot. But the machinery has not been resurrected. Men are still given notice in standard letters alleging "misconduct" (unspecified). No chance to put their case to management, with or without union representation. No provision for appeal.

As a result area autonomy has proved to mean wide and arbitrary differences in practice. In Scotland nobody has been taken back. Nor in Kent. In the North East

things are almost as severe. Yet in South Wales and North Derbyshire three quarters of those dismissed are now back at work. Nationwide, of those sacked, the NUM estimates that 43 per cent were elected lay officials. A further 28 per cent served on strike committees. The union's belief is that the Board is weeding out the union's natural leadership and doing so in particular in those areas in which the coming run-down will be most severe.

At the committee hearing the NUM abandoned its unrealistic demand for a general amnesty. It was a demand which should never have been made both because it appeared to condone serious thuggery and because union intransigence made it easier for Mr MacGregor to dig in. It was clear during the committee hearings that an all-party consensus was emerging in favour of some formal review procedure to look, case by case, at those dismissed. Mr Scargill (who in truth has precious little choice) indicated that he would settle for the revival of the industry's appeals machinery or for any new system involving "an independent umpire." That means the NUM would now live with (properly adjudicated) sackings. Not so Mr MacGregor. But then the Coal Board chairman apparently finds it hard to tolerate any independent review of his managerial judgments. His calculated lack of regard for the supposedly "sacrosanct" Nacods pit closure review scheme has provoked an overtime ban. His intransigent Commons performance distressed even his natural allies on the committee. The Prime Minister once described Mr MacGregor as "an asset." Maybe so. In which case he is a fast wasting asset.

As America's boom fades

The growing prospect of a slowdown in the United States economy is a problem in the first place for President Reagan, whose political fortunes are pinned to the concept and reality of sustained growth. But it is also a problem for Europe whose modest recovery has been greatly helped by America's deficit-driven appetite for imports. This week's lowering of the estimated growth of the US economy in the first quarter (from an annual rate of 1.3 per cent to only 0.7 per cent) is sounding more alarm bells, signalling that nemesis may at last have arrived.

In an attempt to prolong the flagging boom the Federal Reserve reduced its discount rate (the charge it makes to banks and savings institutions which borrow from it) from 8 to 7½ per cent. But this move to

put more spending power into the economy may boost expenditure but not output. As Britain knows to its cost, even a modest reduction can be blown disproportionately on imports when the exchange rate is heavily overvalued.

Until recently the US enjoyed an investment boom thanks largely to so called supply side corporate tax cuts. But now that the plant is coming on stream the new goods are uncompetitive because the dollar appreciation of the past few years has far outstripped improvements in productivity. Hence the clamor call for protection coming not just from the traditional smokesack industries but from hi-tech microchip companies as well.

It is difficult to see how US industries can compete either at home or abroad until there is a substantial reduction in the international value of the dollar. That won't happen until interest rates fall more strongly, which in turn won't happen until the 200 billion dollar budget deficit comes down. If the inevitable cost of doing that is a freeze on defence spending and reduced tax privileges for companies, then the transitional recession may be that much greater.

All of which makes Mrs Thatcher's appeal to the party faithful to stay cool until the goods are delivered look decidedly thin; right back rather than centre forward. Where, pray, will the extra demand come from as the US public's ravenous appetite for imports fades? It won't come from inflation slowing down to increase the spending power of the pound in our pockets. Price rises in the UK are likely to get worse this year. Nor will it come from capital investment once the rush to beat the new corporation tax regime has faded.

It is easy, then, to draw a nightmarish scenario for Mrs Thatcher in which (as the National Institute predicted this week) economic growth will slow down from 3 to 3½ per cent this year to only 1.2 per cent in 1986. At such a low level of growth, productivity will cease to grow fast enough to keep prices stable (unless there is a fresh round of unemployment); the Government will thus enter the next general election campaign with inflation and unemployment rising.

There is, of course, as there has always been, an alternative: stimulating demand in Europe and Japan to offset the international repercussions of an American recession. The US (though not the President himself) has made frequent appeals to this end, but such a course was rejected by Britain and others at the recent Bonn summit. The lady is still not for turning, even it appears, when political survival may be at stake.

Anger from a closed world

Prison officers have a tough job. In an increasingly overcrowded prison system, currently swollen by the sharp and alarming rise in the remand population, their task does not get any easier. In conference at Portsmouth this week, the officers have struck out, metaphorically, against anyone whom they believe is indifferent to their current anxieties about prison management and financing. The Home Secretary was given the bird when he told the conference on Tuesday that economies on overtime payments are essential. The following day it was this newspaper's turn to be put on report, charged with misrepresenting the officers' grievances against the Home Office's latest prisons spending restraint plans. Some delegates tried to have the Guardian's reporter banned from the proceedings.

By such actions, the prison officers appear their own worst enemy, though some Home Office prison department civil servants run them close. Whether they are really ripping off the extraordinarily large prison overtime budget or whether they are in fact compelled to work excessive duties in order to keep the lid on an overcommitted prison system, the officers are wrong to assume that the whole world is out of step with them and is marching to a Home Office tune. The reality is that some "over-time bandits" and some opportunist Home Office financial managers co-exist within the same prison system. The prison officers' grievances against the latter are undermined by their indignant refusal to acknowledge the existence of the former.

Yet another Bushwacking

In his recent book about a trek round the British coastline, Mr Paul Theroux concludes, after chronicling much tatty, that Britain "is too mean to save herself." This astute and generally accurate American observer (who has some nice things to say, too) thus puts his finger on a national failing which is nowhere better illustrated than in the Government's attitude to the BBC's External Services. Their managing director, Mr Austen Kark, justly complained to the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee this week that the past decade had been an almost uninterrupted litany of cuts imposed by the Foreign Office, which

funds Britain's distinctive and distinguished electronic voice to the outside world. The World Service has a growing, if modestly unacknowledged, audience at home. Abroad, it and the foreign language services, despite being directly funded by Government, enjoy an unmatched reputation for accuracy, reliability and quality of content. All over the world, especially in times of crisis, millions tune in to the BBC to find out what is going on in their own countries. According to Mr Kark, Russian radio engineers make a few roubles on the side helping listeners to circumvent Soviet jamming of the Russian service. It is both a unique compliment and a matter for undiluted shame for Britain that Russia spends more on jamming than the BBC is allowed to disburse on its entire overseas output.

The maintenance and indeed the judicious expansion of a service which manages to offer distilled radio of the most exalted overall quality on a shoestring ought to unite patriots and proponents of freedom of information, right, left and centre, in support of the BBC's foreign output. But successive governments have lopped and chopped in an orgy of shortsightedness. The present one intends to continue this miserly tradition by backing another £12 million off a modest budget of \$86 million, doubtless confirmed in its philistinism by the fact that bashing the Beeb as a whole is very much the fashion throughout the Establishment. Meanwhile the US shells out one thousand times as much as this miserable saving-just to bring the blaring Voice of America within blasting range of a small country called Cuba. Poles and Iranians, Somalis and Argentines daily salute the BBC as the trusty voice of Britain. For all its pious concern for the country's image, our Government consistently damages a priceless propaganda asset founded on truth. Why, you may wonder, do they do it? Why is Bush House seemingly doomed to die the slow death of a thousand niggling cuts? There is one very simple, and very stupid, reason. At budget cutting time, the sundry departments of Whitehall are all, across the board, asked to make some kind of sacrifice. The Foreign Office has a relatively modest budget, and cuts usually mean cutting manpower and posts of FO personnel. Not surprisingly, therefore, the first candidate for the chop is usually something the Department funds but doesn't control: Bush House. And then the perennial outcry follows. And then some — but not all — of the threatened services are saved. It is a crazy way to run a radio station.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Home from Soviet home

Sir—Austen Kark's pan-glossian assertion (Letters, May 21) that there has "certainly" been "no exodus of British staff" from BBC External Services cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

While Mr Kark's remarks were made in the particular context of the threat of politicalisation of External Services discussed by Michael Simmons, a more general and fundamental reason why both British and other staff are leaving Bush House is the poor state of industrial relations.

Last October the National Union of Journalists submitted written evidence to the three-man official inquiry into the efficiency — or otherwise — of External Services. "Bad industrial relations," wrote the NUJ, "are driving away talented, trained staff who will not accept less than courteous and just treatment."

One foreign-born Bush House journalist testified as follows: "I expected to work hard. I wanted to do that 'special' BBC broadcasting. But I did not expect in a democratic country to have to fight for fair treatment, individual rights, and respect — and fall in that fight. I didn't leave my home country because of the injustice and repression there. I accepted it in a foreign country."

Other foreign staff told a similar tale: disciplinary procedures and staff appraisal seemed to be in serious breach of elementary human rights; there was no impartial arbitration; management only defended on another; those who exposed such absurdities were intimidated with the threat that their contract would not be renewed.

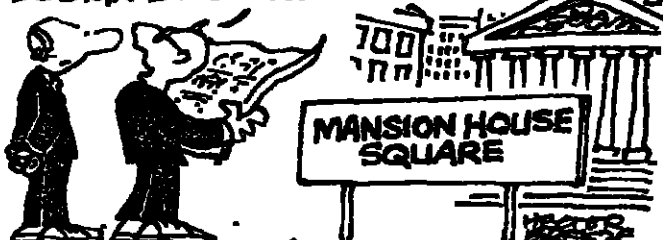
Interestingly in the light of Michael Simmons's article, the point was made that the troubles are "in no way a result of any ideological or political conflict, but a matter of lack of professional (ie, bureaucratic) competence." Indeed, two East European journalists said it had become "a standing joke, though a sour one, to compare our experiences behind the iron curtain to those in the BBC."

The overall picture, as described by the NUJ, is of "arbitrary and sometimes bullying behaviour... all too often the abuses suggest police methods rather than the atmosphere of confidence which we hope would pervade Bush House."

Complaints of bureaucratic ineptitude at External Services are nothing new, but the situation has now deteriorated to the point where the Broadcasting Industrial Council has decided to place the whole matter of employment practices at the BBC before the Commons Select Committee on Employment. Ultimately the corporation — "it's your BBC" — is answerable to Parliament. — David Rudwick, Leigh Court, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.

When the old mediocre is better than the modern bad

ALL OUR TROUBLES ARE OVER — WE'VE FOUND A POSTHUMOUS DESIGN BY CHRISTOPHER WREN



Sir—As a non-architect but, like all of us, as a simple consumer of architecture, it seems to me that Martin Pawley, both in his article (May 20) and in last week's television documentary on the Mansion House scheme, is so close to the issues that he is missing the point.

Conservation and modernism are concepts that are meaningless to us consumers. We just know what we like and what we like is architecture that doesn't patronise or demean us, or hold us in contempt.

Mr Pawley's modernism has been time and time again, and it has been a disaster. Windward inhuman city centres; voids filled with rubbish and reeking of urine, discoloured drab concrete modules and common areas that belong to, and are tended by, no one, these are its hallmarks. It's banal, it's passe, and it's everywhere.

The point Martin Pawley has missed is that modernism is that people are not trying to create a homogeneity out of ingredients separated by hundreds of years, but that, when faced with another appalling example of his modernism, they have no real choice but to oppose it. At least old mediocre buildings are better than modern bad ones.

Michael McDermott 62 Richmond Street, London W6.

Sir—I greatly enjoyed Martin Pawley's piece of tongue-in-cheek architecture bigotry. Its substitution of assertion for argument; use of inflated language; dubious statistics; irrelevant analogies; and its splendidly mixed metaphors (icebergs in archipelagoes!) exactly captured the tone of a certain breed of professional unable to adapt to a changing world. Can we look forward

ward to more of these excellent parodies? — Yours faithfully, E. Drake, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Sir—In his excellent article Martin Pawley questions whether "the conservationists get their sums right." The answer is they never do sums or care about the cost. The obvious and major architectural and historical treasures must be preserved, but no one should doubt the cost. It is extremely expensive and can only be justified by absolute merit. In this area only the very best can be supported by public funds.

The second best has to be preserved on a voluntary basis, either by finding new, income-generating uses, which will also probably involve considerable alteration; or by incentive taxation to encourage owners to retain and maintain.

In London where there has been blanket conservation of hundreds of poorly constructed 19th-century houses, there is a burgeoning problem of future value and maintenance. Redevelopment having been forbidden in recent years, they have been turned into multi-ownership by many cowboy developers. These flats are in badly constructed and poorly refurbished old buildings and have a future of accelerating deterioration, rising maintenance costs, and inevitably diminishing relative values.

Inexorable redevelopment will finally have to be faced, and will be compounded by multitudinous ownership. Will those who favoured initial preservation be around to help fund the problem? — Yours faithfully, Michael Manser, Royal Institute of British Architects, London W1.

Waiting to hear of Mengele

Sir—The issue of the Mengele papers (Letters, May 21) is one that I have also taken up. Mrs Thatcher in her reply to Reginald Freeson, MP, did say she was prepared to release the files to a commission of inquiry.

As chairman of a European Parliament inquiry into the rise of racism and fascism in Europe, which has heard evidence from Simon Wiesenthal about the links

between Mengele and the post-war revival of an international Nazi movement, I proposed last week that my committee should ask the Prime Minister to make the papers available to us. The committee unanimously agreed to this proposal, and we are now awaiting a positive reply from Mrs Thatcher.

Glyn Ford, MEP (Lib, Greater Manchester E), Ashton-under-Lyne.

What the New Right fears in higher education

Sir—In responding to the Government's Green Paper on Higher Education a good deal of argument will be produced to show not merely that its conclusions are unsound and irrelevant to the needs of our economy and society, but all that it seeks to perpetuate myths about universities and polytechnics that are largely the creation of the ideologues of the New Right.

But there is another sense in which this latest manifestation of the insatiable desire to restructure British society along more inequalitarian and authoritarian lines sounds a warning. Only last week the Government unveiled its proposals for a reform of the laws relating to public order.

If those proposals are translated into legislation, we shall have witnessed the greatest reduction in political freedom in nearly two centuries. Public dissent, even in the form of static demonstrations, will have become potentially illegal, and the initial arbiters of legality will be not the courts but senior police officers in their

new role of political commanders. Much of that protest is relatively inarticulate. In an immediate sense it can be contained by brute force. What is more dangerous to the New Right is the existence of intelligent social and political criticism that exposes its cherished axioms as morally pernicious and socially divisive.

For this reason, places of higher education are especially dangerous. They are not technical institutes where students merely learn to be effective manipulators of sophisticated machines, or to be clockwork lawyers and accountants destined only for a lifetime of compliant service to corporations whose policies ensure that the rich become richer and the poor poorer.

By scything down higher education the New Right merely intends to continue what has begun elsewhere in the educational structure. One of the consequences of the unremitting attack on primary and secondary education will be to ensure the existence of a subterranean, subnumerate televisual relay

ing upon pocket calculators for the simplest arithmetic and video games for its cultural diversion.

Those among them who respond to the new "rational incentives"—a synonym for reducing welfare benefits—lower the level of low wages made lower by the abolition of statutory control—will do well to toil in the "no tech" jobs. The more fortunate will be able to perform in "low tech" situations. But like the most fortunate—those in "high tech"—their educational experiences will have directed them away from critical thought.

Those of us with the responsibility of teaching, at whatever level, are becoming more than a little sick of being dubbed "communists" and "Reds" in the cloacal levels of Fleet Street; but the need to speak out against the barbarism of the New Right was never greater.

It has nothing in common with the compassionate civilities of Conservatism. Above all, we need to recognise that there are indeed "enemies within": those who would transform what liberty

and equality we enjoy into an inequalitarian authoritarian system directed from the political centre; those who would lay waste the higher learning with an enthusiasm not matched since the Dark Ages burned the monasteries and their libraries and butchered their inhabitants. Yours truly, Terence Morris, 23 Eastgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire.

Sir—As a "Robbins-raised" mature student of the sixties who graduated from being a lowly college lecturer in the seventies, I can now ponder with a certain grim irony the perplexing question of "the benefit of higher education" which "must be sufficient to justify the cost," according to the Green Paper on higher education.

The crucial issue is, of course, what is meant by "benefit"? Looking back over the seventies, I wonder just how I measure the potential economic benefit to the nation after my more

than 13 years of helping students over the A-level hurdles to, one hopes, a better life for themselves and for society in general.

I feel constrained to confess that my contribution was teaching literature and its immeasurable value in fostering mutual understanding in class and, ergo, in society. Or so I thought—but then that is difficult to measure.

I have however one consolation: many of my usually "mature" students, some even unemployed, were also taking useful A-levels upon which a certain alchemy, no doubt, could be worked. In that context even Eng Lit counted not only as an A-level but also as a useful one. And that was in the seventies.

If we are now to be reduced to measuring the benefit of education in purely (sic) economic terms, we are clearly not on the street... where things really count. E. S. Smith, 27 Abbott's Way, Brinkleyton, N. Humberside.

Miscellany at large

Sir—When a group of us attended Liverpool magistrates court to support a local CND member who had refused to pay a fine for engaging in peaceful protest—she subsequently received a 14-day sentence—we were refused admittance to the courtroom. The reason given was lack of space, but when people from preceding cases left the courtroom we were not allowed to fill the vacant seats.

It is deeply disturbing that the public can be excluded from the courts, particularly in political cases such as this one. Justice cannot take place behind closed doors. — Yours faithfully, Penny Eastwood, Liverpool.

Sir—As writers we sympathise with Nicholas de Jongh (Letters, May 20) and join him in voicing concern over anyone's written work being used out of context. However, if critics are to insist upon a code of practice outlawing misrepresentation by producers in their use of theatre reviews, what recourse does a playwright or producer have when a critic totally misrepresents his or her play? — Yours, Gabe Stewart, Malcolm Stewart, Edinburgh.

Sir—Richard Boston may, under English law, change his forename to Terry should he think it might prosper his career or improve his soul. However most Terences in Britain owe their handle to an Anglicised over-censured written work "Turoh" which is of Viking descent. A shortened form of Mr Boston's Chris-

tian name is Dick, of which there are many about. — Yours faithfully, Terry Brimley, Tyldesley, Manchester.

Sir—I remember well the "early hours of September 22, 1979." Then, as Israel ambassador to New Zealand, I first encountered the concerted charges that South Africa and Israel had exploded a nuclear device "near the Antarctic Circle."

The charge was almost immediately disproved by the two monitoring stations in New Zealand.

I therefore fail to understand your Leader (May 23) that although "the evidence remains purely circumstantial... it is now a lot more solid than it was." The "Tel Aviv Victoria Asia" was a propaganda theme diffused by the Soviets against Israel's development assistance in Africa in the 1960s. — Yours, etc, Yankov Morris, Embassy of Israel, London W8.

A COUNTRY DIARY

WILTSHIRE: The western boundary of this county, where Somerset once began but has since been replaced by the strange hybrid Avon, is a splendid area for a country walk. The sort of walk I have in mind is not the serious booted and rucksacked affair of 20 miles or more; nor is it the 40-yard wander from a parked car which a number of planning surveys have found to be the most frequent radius employed by

Weakening?

Sir—Most women who go out to work, squash paid employment and domestic work into the same daily plot pot. Their own preferences are normally for a more even distribution of working time over the week, which Sunday shopping would help. It could even be that a shift to Sunday shopping would prompt more sharing of domestic tasks within the family (fewer excuses available to men).

But, we may have to make up our minds on how permanent the week is as a temporal unit. Many systems override it, compensating employees with premium payments for working not only unsocial hours and weekends, but also for abandoning the weekly cycle.

Leaving aside the sabbatarian question, we should ask whether people want or need a seven-day cycle for which Sunday acts as a marker, defining its beginning or end.

Tom Schuller, London E2.

Proper plutonium perspective

Sir—Roger Franklin's letter (May 14) exemplifies the confusion prevalent in articles about the link between radiation and cancer.

He assumes that all clusters of leukaemia, even those remote from nuclear facilities, are caused by inhaling particles of plutonium which have drifted long distances before settling on the affected area. This novel idea neglects the fact that such clusters were known about long before plutonium, nuclear power, or nuclear weapons came into being.

It is becoming clear from current studies that leukaemia appears to occur in clusters much more frequently than would be expected, assuming a random distribution, and that this is a countrywide phenomenon. It would seem to be in the nature of the disease.

Another misunderstanding concerns the assertion that plutonium as a man-made element cannot be compared with natural background radiation. In fact there is no

difference in kind between the radiation emitted by plutonium and by naturally occurring alpha-particle emitters present in the human body, arising from the decay of uranium and thorium deposits in the earth.

The very small quantities of plutonium present in the body — almost entirely caused by the radioactive weapons testing — will only add fractionally to the background level which itself is estimated to cause only 1 to 2 per cent of cancer deaths in the UK.

It is clear from studies of the health records of plutonium workers in the nuclear industry that the risk of cancer from exposure has not been seriously underestimated.

The relationship between radiation and cancer has been, and continues to be, investigated using proper scientific methodology. The quality press could do much to aid public appreciation of this process and its results. P.E. Broad, Grappenhall, Cheshire.

assembled. From Freshford we take the riverside path past the old watermill and within sight of the Frome cross field which in medieval times were owned by the great priory at Hinton Charterhouse. The rich stone-work of the few buildings along the wall are adequate testimony to the residuary legacies of the monastic fabric. Past the elegant 18th century frontage of Hford Manor a sharp ascent takes us briefly through a modern housing estate where current Sunday-morning observations

involve scrupulous washing of the family car. But Avoncliff, where the canal crosses both the river and the railway in a fine historic aqueduct, is only lightly touched by the 20th century and we turn homewards past the courtyard of the old local workhouse for a level stretch across water meadows. This gentle centre through a richly historic area of country offers pubs at both Avoncliff and Freshford and puts a fine age to the appetite. COLIN LUCKHURST

DIARY

BRUCE KENT of CND has had the rug pulled from beneath him by an anonymous person who, working through a London solicitor, has paid off £37 he owed to the Inland Revenue. Mr Kent was due to appear in the county court next month to argue that he was withholding part of his tax to stop it being used for first-strike nuclear weapons, which he says are suicidal and therefore nothing to do with defence and therefore illegal. It was the third time of trying, whoever it is had failed to get both Mr Kent and his solicitors to accept the money before sending it directly to the taxman. "Someone, somewhere, clearly doesn't want this issue in court," said Kent. The only consolation now is that the Revenue will have to pay at least part of his substantial legal costs.

ONE of the many twists in the right-wing personality of Edward Leitch, Tory MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle, is that he supports a streamlined GLC. Hence his remark to local government minister Kenneth Baker, overheard in the Commons this week: "I'm arranging to be abroad when the abolition Bill comes back to the Commons."

FOR SOME TIME the National Theatre has sported a notice saying "The Cottesloe Theatre is closed due to insufficient Arts Council subsidy." But on the day Sir William Rees-Mogg, Arts Council chairman, paid a visit with the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, the notice was changed to read: "The Cottesloe will be re-opening in the autumn. No mention of the GLC money which will enable it to re-open. Appropriately enough, Rees-Mogg and Lawson saw the Government Inspector."

PADDY ASHDOWN has surfaced from the depths of Yeovil, clutching a bottle of a brand of cider which he wants the Commons catering manager to stock. It's called *Thatcher's Ruin*, and the label carries a picture of a yokel lurking about on a ladder under the caption, "Traditional and strong". His bottle is medium dry, with bits floating in it, but you can get a dry version too — the bottle is non-returnable.

IT WAS no secret that Harold Pinter upset the Americans and the Turks earlier this year when he and Arthur Miller visited Turkey and complained about the treatment of prisoners. But the full details of the discomfort they caused at a US Embassy dinner are only just getting around. His Excellency the Goldwaterite Ambassador, Mr Robert Strauss Hupe, made a remark to the effect that there were certain difficulties which had to be understood and there were many opinions on any given issue. "Not if you've got an electric wire hooked to your genitals," replied the playwright of few words. "Sir," said the Ambassador, inflating his chest, "You are a guest in my house." The American account of events is that Pinter left at this point; the British, that he brazened it out.

COLIN MARSHALL, chief executive of British Airways, arrived in Rio de Janeiro with a party of journalists to celebrate BA's takeover of the London-Rio route from British Caledonian. When he arrived at the Sheraton, he was rather surprised to find an army of flowers awaiting him — in the shape of a wreath. It was from Acropolis Argentinas. Perhaps they'd better call up an escort of Phantom from the Falklands — Nefarious garrison.

BLACK barrister Rudy Narayan is at it again in his new book, *Barrister for the Defence*. After glowing references to the rule of "international Zionism" in denying equality to just about everyone, he says: "While considering the denial of 'black sections' by Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party, black radicals should record that the more subtle and sophisticated Jewish community have themselves set up 'Jewish sections' by silently and secretly noting that they must support the coming of Jewish MPs and they work to this end with feverish and overbearing zeal blacks still believe in open and honest politics." This obscurely-expressed theme picks up remarks he made in 1977 to an audience in Hackney about international master plans and the like. The back of the book carries allegations about the author's "racism" and fails to mention that the Bar Council disciplinary tribunal in 1983 found him guilty of four charges — including abusing the DPP's staff and trying to see a prosecution notebook during a trial — and suspended him for six weeks.

Stephen Cook

ALEX BRUMMER reports from Washington on how prosperity leads to party time in white-collar crime

The fat years and the fiddlers' spending spree

THE discomforts of General Dynamics over its creative accounting on Pentagon contracts is symptomatic of a disease which seems to spread through American business in the years of prosperity. In the 1970s, when the less developed world seemed such a wonderful opportunity, many of the nation's largest corporations set up slush funds to buy their way into lucrative profits in foreign markets, and were punished.

It is no coincidence that as the fat years draw to a close, with Congressional action to limit defence spending, the evidence of corruption just below the surface over the last five years is bubbling to the top. General Dynamics, the largest defence contractor, which builds the Trident nuclear submarine, the M-1

help of a compliant Congress has poured into the military-industrial complex. When such huge sums of money — the equal to four years of total wealth-creation in Britain — are sloshing around the system, the temptation for corruption becomes almost impossible to resist.

It is the tip of an iceberg: of the top 100 defence contractors some 40 are now under investigation for fiddling on Pentagon contracts. But it is not just the defence contractors who have been implicated in the wave of white-collar crime. Wall Street's largest stockbrokers, E. F. Hutton, were caught with their hands in the till by the Justice Department.

The Reagan years, like the Nixon years before them, have been particularly ripe for over-extension by the business world. The cult of the CEO, the Chief Executive Officer, has about riding high. Books about CEOs have dominated the bestseller list as every American has sought to join this new aristocracy of the super-rich who cross the country in their flash corporate jets at the expense of shareholders — and now, it appears, the taxpayer.

The point is that while General Dynamics, as the largest defence contractor has come to be seen as the villain of the piece, and has been given a slap across the wrists by the Navy Secretary, Mr John Lehman, he and everyone else in the Pentagon knows, it is virtually impossible in the military-industrial complex to escape practices which until recently were allowed to go on unabated.

The chequered financial affairs of Mr Meese, who let E. F. Hutton off the hook so lightly, have been widely exposed. At least one National Security Adviser, Mr Richard Arlen, was forced to resign and another NSC staff man, Mr Thomas Reed, cleared his desk after some insider share dealings. With models like this in the National Security, Justice, and Defence establishment, it is not surprising that American business has gone on a rampage of corruption.

WALTER SCHWARZ reports on Teddy Goldsmith's latest damnation of development as the Third World's panacea

A rude awakening from the scourge of the dambuilders

ECONOMIC development could easily kill a billion more people through starvation in the next 15 years, Teddy Goldsmith writes in the new issue of his magazine *The Ecologist*. He blames the World Bank, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation, and national aid bodies like our own Overseas Development Administration.

Goldsmith tells Tom Clusen, the World Bank president, in an open letter, that development is a mammoth "confidence trick" in which the Third World pays for illusory progress by exporting more and more of its food and destroying more and more of its natural ability to grow it.

Clusen is bluntly told "to stop financing the destruction of the tropical world, the devastation of its remaining forests, the extermination of its wildlife, and the impoverishment and starvation of its human inhabitants."

This is followed by 13 specialist articles ranging over the whole field of devastation, beginning with Africa's current "pseudo-droughts" — famines not really caused by rain failure (which has occurred normally for centuries without causing famines) but by the ruin of land, over-grazed and over-cultivated by refugees from "development" elsewhere.

Never before has the environmental case against massive development projects been put so rudely. Goldsmith likens an old FAO idea for feeding the world by opening up equatorial Africa and the Amazon basin for agriculture to "the LSD-inspired dream of some technology-obsessed adolescent."

Goldsmith claims the FAO "has been for several years under the complete domination of the agro-chemical industry." Its policies make sense when seen as "maximising the sales of agro-chemicals and the availability of cheap food exports, especially beef, to the food-processing industries of the West."

For Clusen he adds: "By financing their projects, this is what you are helping to achieve, at the cost of creating the poverty and famine we are only beginning to witness today."

Rudeness, meant to shock, is no surprise to those who have known Teddy for years as the chief scourge of dam-builders, insect-sprayers and forest-fellers. His critics call him a Malthusian, a nihilist — heartless, right-wing and authoritarian because he does not stop at attacking excesses: he attacks development itself.

He is brother of the grocer-publisher, James Goldsmith. He sounds as passionately angry as he writes, while managing at the same time to live a well-developed life between his Cornish home and his Curzon Street club.

I once suggested to him that practical ecology might start in cities, where most people live and are doomed to remain. He replied: "Cities? They're doomed. They will die: they have to die."

While his critics call him a pessimist, his admirers, including many in the development field who dare not confess, point out that so much passion, energy and erudition must conceal faith in something.

From pseudo-droughts, the anti-Clusen diatribe goes on to his central target: dams. The bigger they are, the more people they kill, as he attempts to show in a worldwide, two-volume study with Nicholas Hildyard. Dams displace millions from traditional lands on which they know how to survive, rain or no rain.

The next target is the felling of vast areas of forest to build dams and by create "agriculture" on unsuitable land. This has reached the ultimate horror in the \$1.6 billion Polonoroeste project in north-west Brazil, where an unknown number of Indians in 15 reserves is being displaced and an area the size of the UK is to be deforested by 1990. Already many of the new settlers are leaving because the land is, after all, barren.

Tropical forests cool the whole earth by retaining and evaporating water. One of Goldsmith's authors, the atmospheric chemist James Lovelock, famous as the champion of the Gaia hypothesis, argues that forest decimation can cause a catastrophic climatic "flip" — raising temperatures sufficiently to make large areas uninhabitable.

Pesticides are the next villain, like the "hard" chemicals (banned in the West) still raining down on seven million square kilometers of central Africa, under FAO auspices, to "eradicate" the tsetse fly so that beef can be produced for the American hamburger industry. The *Ecologist's* finding, amply substantiated elsewhere, is that this project kills off every sector of the natural habitat, including poisoned human beings, but not the tsetse fly which has become resistant.

If development has enriched the northern hemisphere why should southerners not be allowed to catch up? Goldsmith argues they never can, because their costs can only go up and earnings can only fall. Besides, as Ivan Illich and Oscar Lewis said before Teddy, development in the north has only modernised poverty, as black ghettos and the condition of inner cities bear witness.

First reactions to Goldsmith range from embarrassed admiration to defensive anger. "I'm in the reforming camp, not the nihilistic," said Richard Sandbrook of the International Institute for Environment and Development in London. Does Teddy really want Malthusian ecology to operate?

He agrees that such current development needs a radical rethink, but points out that even as it is, it has

fed many otherwise hungry people. Besides, the World Bank and Third World governments have both become more environment-conscious — thanks to people like Teddy.

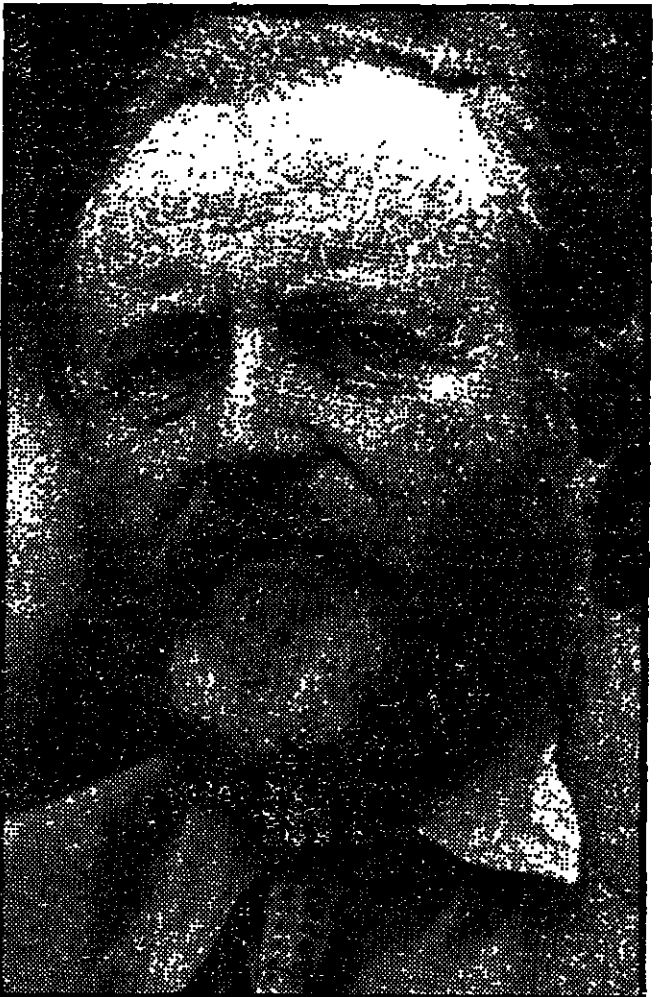
In Washington, the head of the World Bank's 10-man environment group, Robert Goodland, wanted Teddy to concede that "by and large," human longevity and literacy had been increased, child mortality was lower, there was more fresh water and the per-capita GNP had gone up — except in sub-Saharan Africa. Goldsmith concedes nothing of the sort.

With apparent sympathy for Goldsmith's view of the FAO, Goodland said "we cannot expect to see eye-to-eye on all aspects of development."

At ODA, officials saw no reason for self-reproach. "No programme here can pass muster unless the environment issues have been well and properly covered. We have a databank on it."

What does Teddy advocate? He has often extolled the virtues of primitive tribes — and been branded as a romantic reactionary. He now says: "Look after the land, here in Europe and America as well as in the Third World. I'm not for ignoring the Third World: we can help by seeing that their problem and ours is the same. Not dams, not poisons, but replanting trees, protecting soil from erosion, drainage. Unfortunately, things like that don't make money for people."

Teddy Goldsmith: "Look after the land." Picture by Martin Argles



JOE JOYCE, in Dublin, on the Commissioner v the Chief

Forces of circumstance in the embattled isle

LARRY WREN'S period as Garda commissioner, like his relationship with his RUC counterpart, has been dominated by the circumstances in which he became head of the Republic's police force.

He was appointed commissioner at the start of 1983 after investigating the involvement of two of his colleagues in the tapping of private telephones of two political journalists under the previous Fianna Fail government.

It is one piece of unfinished business from that era of unprecedented political scandals in 1983 — the Downes affair — that has poisoned the relationship with Sir John Hermon.

Wren blames the RUC for his failure to get to the bottom of the affair in which northern police prevented a prosecution witness from giving evidence against a Garda who happened to be the brother-in-law of the then justice minister, Sean Donoherty. Without formal confirmation from the RUC that the witness was detained in the north at the request of a senior officer in Dublin, Mr Wren's hands were tied.

The conflict between Mr Wren and Sir John over this issue has been noted as an example of the similarities between them. Neither gives in easily, nor reaches immediately for a compromise. Many of Sir John's problems have flowed from his efforts to keep the RUC out of the party political battlegrounds in Northern Ireland. The experiences of Mr Wren's

predecessors have left him with a scepticism of politicians and their short-term demands, though he is less ready than Sir John to articulate it.

Both men are deeply religious, though belonging to different denominations, and share a similar image of being stern disciplinarians. That has led both of them into difficulties with the associations representing members of their forces. But for Mr Wren, the problems facing the Garda are significantly different to those confronting the RUC.

Mr Wren's main problem has been to mould the Garda into an efficient force to deal with a domestic crime wave, while facing the pressures created by 15 years of IRA and other terrorist activity.

The Garda are under the direct and tight control of the Justice Ministry. But critics of the force who had pinned their hopes on Mr Wren are growing disillusioned with his inability, as they see it, to make necessary changes. Mr Wren's reputation is that of a strict disciplinarian who will not brook any shady activities or corner-cutting. One of his subordinates once felt aggrieved enough to fire a shot through his window when he was a superintendent.

Along Britain's car is around the corner on a double yellow line...



Discipline and the transfer of members have led him as commissioner into several battles with the associations representing rank-and-file members and junior officers. Indeed, the association for rank-and-file members has hardly any dealings with him any more.

Some Gardai maintain, however, that his attitude to discipline has mellowed as he moved up the hierarchy from head of C3, the intelligence branch, in the mid-1970s, to deputy commissioner and commissioner. But they feel he has failed to fulfil his promise of reorganising the management of the force to deal with the demands upon it.

Most current senior officers joined up when the force was designed to deal with a largely rural and relatively crime-free society. Increased urbanisation — more than a third of the entire population now lives in Dublin — has altered the crime pattern, but the force lags behind in its attempts to deal with it.

Mr Wren has also had to cope with a crisis of morale the past year. Under the pressure of the crime rate, the Gardai have found themselves under verbal attack from civil libertarians over such issues as the Kerry babies' case and other accusations of ill-treating suspects.

According to Gardai sources, Mr Wren has dealt effectively with the morale problem in a recent course of all districts in which he abandoned the usual formalities and presented himself for question-and-answer sessions with all ranks. The result was a lot of frank talking and an immediate improvement in morale, the sources say.

It has gone down well, particularly among Gardai along the border who normally see little recognition for their efforts. There is a high level of fellow feeling for the RUC among them. But they see their efforts repeatedly disparaged for what they regard as political reasons and attempts to pass the blame for all northern security failures on to them.

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BEACH PLAY
HILL PLAYS
DESERT AIR
TIMMY
GARDEN GIRLS

Prue Leith welcomes two books which should encourage cooks to start cooking again

Fredy and the kitchen dreamers



IT'S good to see a couple of cookbooks that make one resolve to try harder — books that make one want to cook.

There aren't many most cookbooks being adaptations, regurgitations and reshapes of other cookbooks, themselves the products of cannibalism. Let me say at once that one of these books is not yet published in Britain. It is the American edition of *Les Recettes Originales de Girardet: La Cuisine Spontanée* which was published in Europe in French three years ago. The American translation, sadly, lacks the pictures (photographs) by Julien van der Wal, which make cooks like me feel they should just give up and go back to beans on toast. The edition is called *The Cuisine of Fredy Girardet* and pompously (if justifiably) subtitled "the incomparable recipes of the greatest chef in Europe."

Girardet is perhaps Europe's best cook, having taken the crown from Paul Bocuse whose tireless bent for self-promotion has made him more famous as a showman and *restaurateur* of the gastro-pundits than as a cook. Girardet is mostly still to be found in the kitchens of his restaurant in Crissier, Switzerland, delighting the international set with his personal brand of nouvelle cuisine.

What I like most about the

book is the utter simplicity of the dishes. No striving here for unlikely combinations of mango sauce with coriander to dress three different poultry breasts. The dishes are derived from classic flavour marriages — sole with sorrel, salmon with saffron, red mullet with Mediterranean herbs, veal with curry, kidney with red wine sauce, rabbit with mustard. Girardet is not too grand to include a recipe for veal kidney simply sliced and fried in butter and oil with salt and pepper.

The fashion for delicate fish dishes is very evident. His recipes are not always easy for the home cook because, though simple, they are last-minute affairs forcing the cook to leave the table for the kitchen. But there are many others, like the pigeon pot au feu, which are unusual and achievable-in-advance. But best of all is the pudding chapter. The recipe below is made with mundane ingredients, and a glass of left-over white wine, and is, I think, delicious.

● Tarte au vin to serve 6

1 cup flour
4 tablespoons butter, softened
1½ teaspoons baking powder
1 pinch salt
¼ teaspoon sugar
3 to 4 tablespoons milk

Filling:

½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon powdered cinnamon
1½ tablespoons flour
½ cup white wine
1 tablespoon butter

To make the pastry, in a bowl, work together the 1 cup flour, 4 tablespoons butter, the baking powder, salt, and ¼ teaspoon sugar with your fingertips until the mixture has the consistency of meal. Stir in the milk, from the dough into a ball, and roll the ball in any loose flour remaining on the bottom of the bowl. If the flour is not readily absorbed, add a few drops of milk.

Butter and flour an 8-inch tart pan with a removable base. Without letting the dough rest, roll it out to a round about ½ inch thick. Line the pan loosely with the dough leaving about ½ inch of slack. Carefully press the slack back into the centre of the pan so that it is nearly level with the rim and then use your thumbs to press the dough around the base of the side of the pan to "fix" it there. Cut off any of the slack that remains beyond the rim.

To make the border, first push the dough back up above the rim. Fold the dough back and press with your fingers to make a rolled edge even with the top of the rim. Pinch the

edges between your thumb and index finger every third of an inch all along the rim. Prick the base of the tart shell.

Heat the oven to 375 deg F/190 deg C/gas mark 5. Mix together the two thirds of a cup of sugar, the cinnamon, and the 1½ tablespoons flour. Sprinkle the mixture in the pastry shell, spreading evenly. Add the wine and, with your fingertips, incorporate it into the flour mixture. Dot with the tablespoon of butter.

Bake the tart on the floor of the preheated oven for 20 minutes. Turn the pan occasionally to equalise the cooking and to avoid the formation of bubbles in the filling. Let the tart cool before unmoulding.

I apologise for giving a rave review to a book as yet unobtainable in Britain. Macmillan promise it for the autumn, in a new translation by Susan Campbell, but may be suffering a twinge of indigestion just now: problems with copies have forced them to postpone publication of *Angels in the Kitchen*, already serialised in *Cuisine Nat*.

My next book is available here, but is also, I'm sorry to say, in American measures; it's a direct transplant from New York. But British cooks should buy a set of cup measures — available at most cookware shops — and not be thrown by the system. Once you use cup measures, you wonder why Europe and Britain don't follow suit. Everything, liquid and solid, gets

measured by volume and there's no struggling with decilitres into millilitres, liquid ounces into grams, pounds into kilos.

The *Silver Palate Cookbook* (Ebury Press, £9.95) is by Julie Rosso and Sheila Lukins, founders of the New York deli and food shop of the same name. The two women opened the shop, they say, to cater for the working woman, the bachelor tired of restaurants, and the family off on a spontaneous but special picnic in the park. Sheila (who learnt to cook at the London Cordon Bleu School) stirred away in her kitchen, and Julie toiled behind the counter.

The shop succeeded and the book, which sold a million copies, is its offshoot — the wisdom, lore, practical advice and recipes that made the deli and catering business a success.

I've had to replace a party I'm giving just because the "finger-food" in the book is irresistible. Away with mince-sandwiches and stuffed eggs. From now on it's tiny goat's cheese tartlets, mange-tout peas stuffed with shrimp, Provencal peppers on mince-tongues, phyllo triangles, and stuff with Roquefort and pistachio (or rosemary and prosciutto), marinated lamb kebabs, and so on.

also like the simple instructions for producing gravies and for the dill, mustard and sour cream sauce to go with it.



Fredy Girardet, "perhaps Europe's best cook," folds the edge of a papillote.

From Tunbridge Wells to Middle Wallop via a wholesome Village Bakery

GOOD FOOD GUIDE

KENT is not known for its restaurants. Bruce Wass who used to be the chef at Odins in London, Peter Langan's original restaurant (still very good) has moved to one of the oldest houses in Tunbridge Wells, once the home of William Makepeace Thackeray. The set price menus from £8.90 for two courses up to £13.50 for three offer a slice of the modern cooking commendably described in English — potted duck, chicory, and bacon salad, brill fricasse with watercress, guinea fowl with wild mushrooms. The wine list matches the food.

Thackeray's House, 85 London Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Tel: Tunbridge Wells (0892) 37558.

Harrogate is a conference town with a vengeance and there are plenty of eating places for expense accounts. The first in the town is excellent thanks to the sterling work of the retail merchant Ramsus's. Shrimp's is attached to the Studley Court Hotel. The menu is all fish and a generous bowl of pickled salad and hot brown bread is laid out on each table in this smart basement. There is a set menu at £7.50 including half a carafe of wine, offering pickled herring salad before plates with a salmon mousse and lobster sauce, which is good value. There is also a carte which changes according to the catch. There are plenty of vegetables and the service is Yorkshire, which means good.

Shrimp's, Swan Road, Harrogate, Tel: Harrogate (0423) 58111.

As I left, I passed another bookshop displaying *Plum Meal*. My goodness, thought I, if this is how One-Dish Davidson feels after his light lunch, what sort of people are those for whom five dishes represent a kind of abstinence? They can't all be as big as Thomas, since he towers above the crowds in the street and indeed constantly attracts public comment on his size.

Such musings simply reflected my inadequate knowledge of eating patterns. That very evening I had a near-Plum Meal in the home of a Taiwanese artist: four dishes, and no trouble at all, because it was self-help and you took just what you felt like eating.

I began to see light: not all eating is done in the street; the Plum Meal publicists have their sights on meals in the home, and these are very different from stall fare.

Alan Davidson

The Village Bakery is ecologically sound. The traditional oven heats the greenhouse above it as well as the cakes and breads, and there are five acres of smallholding where the vegetables are organically grown. It is open through the day from 8.30 am when there are big griddled breakfasts or Loch Fyne kippers. At lunch there is traditional roast beef and Yorkshire puddings and kebabs, shire or steaks and the wood embers of the bread oven. In the afternoon the bakery has its turn with cakes and biscuits. It is a convincing case for going back to more traditional methods of food production. It is also quite hard to spend £7.50 a head here.

Village Bakery, Melmerby, Penrith, Cumbria. Tel: Langwathby (078) 881515.

The low road to the west country from London takes in the A343 which passes Fifehead Manor, a small red brick hotel with an understated dining-room where the wines are stacked in the fireplace. Nicholas Rutven-Stuart has been cooking here, taking the menu into some interesting areas. His crab soup is first class, lamb is served pink and beef fillet on croutons with rough cut field mushrooms and a sauce of beef stock reduced and a little cream added.

Fifehead Manor, Middle Wallop, Hampshire. Tel: Andover (0264) 781565.

Drew Smith

All correspondence about these articles should be addressed to: The Editor, *The Good Food Guide*, Freeport, 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BR.

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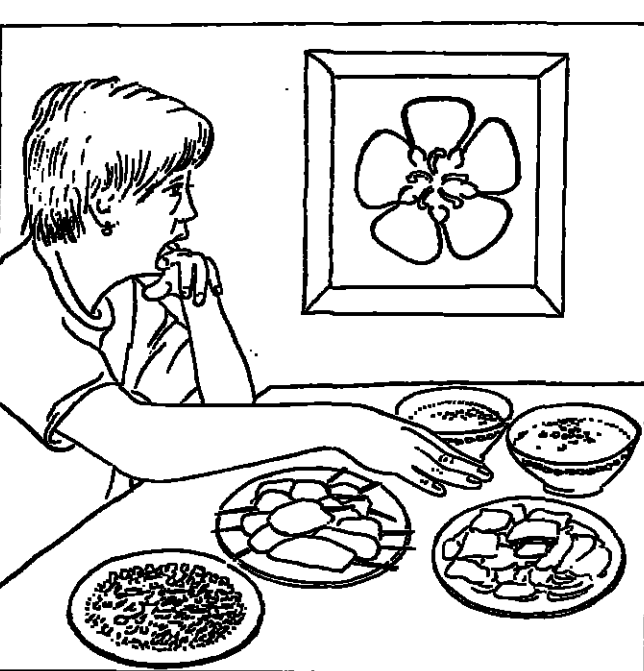
Honest bottle

THE wine of the Moselle is arguably the finest of all summer wines. Chilled in the refrigerator or better (and quicker) in an ice bucket at home; in a freezer bag for picnics — it is splendidly cooling in hot weather. Crucially, it lacks that sugar which makes so many of the best bottles more suitable for like liqueurs — as so many Germans do — than as a luncheon wine.

Sainsbury's this year are selling Urziger Schwarzwitz Moselle, from the Middle Moselle — where the best of those wines come from — and it is fresh and fruity with that quality of crispness which makes it so refreshingly easy to drink. It comes in a decorative 70cl glass crock, and will cost only £1.99.

John Arlott

ORIENTAL DIARY: Taiwan's Plum method for setting the five-dish limit



Drawing by Soun

A REVOLUTION in Taiwan, encouraged by the government? Yes, I recently saw, in the bookshops of Taipei, ample evidence of this phenomenon, though in the culinary rather than the political domain.

The Recipe of Plum Meal: every shop stocked this title, with the five English words on the dust jacket, and everything else in Chinese. An enigma: could they be milling dried plums into some sort of additive to bread flour? Had someone misinterpreted plum pudding? Or was it a piece of obsolete American slang (this recipe or meal is "a real plum"? I sought help from tiny Taiwanese Mimi who, with her giant German husband Thomas, was guiding me around.

The explanation was simple. The government thought that too much time and effort were going into the preparation of elaborate traditional meals with many dishes. They had decided that five was enough. The new style was symbolised by the five-petalled plum flower,

which is also the national emblem of Taiwan.

Meanwhile, so far as I could see, most eating in Taiwan is still done in the streets, from the stalls which cluster everywhere.

Food at the stalls is usually a one-dish affair, since the stalls are small (like the snake stall I visited, with dozens of strong cages containing live snakes, hooks on which the chef impales them prior to slaughtering and flaying, and big pots in which a variety of snake soups are made for curing ailments as well as for gastronomic pleasure).

If one wants a second dish, as one might after having snake soup one goes to a second stall. But the helpings are large, and one dish is usually enough; or more than enough, as I found at the stall called Samsi Lau Li Don Sha Mien, number 206 in the South Gate Market in Taipei.

This is quite a famous stall, where the food is typical of Samsi province on the mainland: a region where wheat, not rice, is the staple. Lau Li

is "old Li", the owner. Dou Sha Mien means knife-shaving-noodles. The person who shaves the noodles, with an unusual horseshoe-shaped cutter made by Mr Li himself, is Ms Shu, and she has been doing it for 18 years, of which four were spent as an apprentice.

Her dough is made with only wheat flour and warm water. Folded over and pressed into a long roll, which is held up in the left hand, it is then sliced at dazzling speed with the right hand into long thin strips.

These are cooked in a huge wok, big enough to cope with 18 large helpings at a time. The water in which the noodles are cooked is served as "plain noodle soup," and is faintly milky and sweetish.

I had a bowl of the soup before tackling my mound of noodles, which were accompanied by four side dishes: "delicious pork jelly," soy bean sauce, sesame oil, and vinegar. The noodles were very good, but when I was still some way short of finishing I began to falter. Mimi kept

right on, and Ms Shu was watching, so I had to make it to the end.

As I left, I passed another bookshop displaying *Plum Meal*. My goodness, thought I, if this is how One-Dish Davidson feels after his light lunch, what sort of people are those for whom five dishes represent a kind of abstinence? They can't all be as big as Thomas, since he towers above the crowds in the street and indeed constantly attracts public comment on his size.

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Alan Davidson

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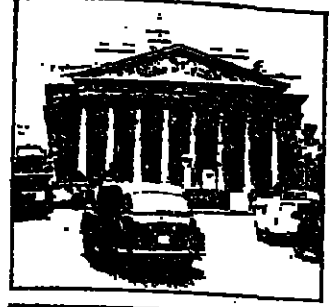
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It will be a long time before Ireland stops paying for its splurge in the seventies



NOTEBOOK

Edited by Hamish McRae

WHICH Western industrial country has the highest national debt in relation to the size of the economy? And what has that done to its economy?

The answer is not one of those Nordic heavy borrowers like Denmark or Sweden, nor indeed the rapidly industrialising Mediterranean countries like Spain and Portugal, but somewhere much closer to home: the Republic of Ireland.

This fact emerges from a new report on the Irish economy from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is an interesting document at two levels: as a study of the painful readjustment necessary following an excess of borrowing at the end of the last decade and as a critique of Ireland's extremely interesting policy of encouraging industrial investment from abroad.

Looking back, it is really quite extraordinary how Ireland managed to borrow so much. In 1981 the public sector borrowing requirement reached 20 per cent of gross

national product. Of this borrowing requirement, more than two-thirds was financed abroad. The current account deficit amounted to 15 per cent of GNP, money supply was growing at over 17 per cent a year and inflation at over 20 per cent.

What followed was two years of strict austerity. Taking 1982 and 1983 together, private consumption fell by about 8 per cent, something that has not happened in this country since the peace time. It is comparable with the sort of squeeze on consumers that occurred in Poland, and that led to food riots. Only last year was the fall in consumption limited, and then it rose only a 1 per cent.

Unemployment, meanwhile, rose to 16 per cent. How far has this extraordinary punishment handed to the electorate put the financial numbers back on course? The OECD reckons

that a lot of progress was made in 1982 and 1983, for example getting the trade deficit down to only 8 per cent of GNP and inflation down to 6 per cent, annual rate, at the end of that year.

But since then progress has been slower. True inflation has still tended to fall, and the trade balance improve, but at a slower rate.

Looking ahead, the OECD sees modest economic growth this year and next, with GNP rising at 2 to 2.5 per cent a year, consumption by 1 per cent, the trade balance coming close to the black, and the rise of unemployment at last being checked. But at the end of the high level of 17 per cent.

The thing that absolutely clobbers the economy, though, is the debt burden. Debt service costs take a third of tax income, while foreign debt service demands 9 per cent of export earnings.

At home, the debt burden makes it very difficult to reduce taxation, something which the OECD sees as a high priority. Abroad, the economy has to divert 6 per cent of its total output simply to pay the interest on foreign debt.

What does the OECD think about this? It believes Ireland has to find ways of cutting the public sector's size and encouraging the private sector. It has to correct by cutting spending, not by increasing taxes. In the short term the budgetary changes will add further to unemployment, but the OECD argues this can be mitigated by a shift in industrial policy. It has to help its own companies expand, rather than merely bringing in companies from abroad.

This is an important line of argument. Ireland has been very successful at attracting foreign investment, and has enormous incentives

to do so. But the problem is that these companies which have come in are in capital intensive bit areas. They don't employ that many people. Meanwhile local companies have had labour bid away, and have shed jobs. More than this, the new companies do not generate other economic activity: they bring in supplies from abroad, and sell their goods abroad, rather than building up relationships with Irish firms.

Somewhat Ireland has to twist its industry away from being so dependent on foreign enterprises and encourage instead its own entrepreneurs. But this industrial adjustment, like the fiscal adjustment, is a long slog.

Hard to follow

THE BATTLE LINES for the chairmanship of ICI became clearer yesterday. Mr John Harvey-Jones, the

present chairman, insists that no blandishment or entreaty will entice him to keep a grip on the reins of power there beyond April Fools Day 1987, the day he is due to retire.

Having pushed ICI's profits over £1 billion while becoming the media's most popular industrialist, John Harvey-Jones will be a hard act to follow.

ICI has traditionally chosen its next leader from a triumvirate within its own board. Yesterday Tom Hutchinson, who runs the group's weighty plastics and petrochemicals division, and Mr Ronnie Hampel, who runs the pesticides division, were both elected to the board.

They join Mr Denys Henderson, the only other current board member with enough youth and clout to make a stab at filling Mr Harvey-Jones's shoes.

As yet none of these men

have displayed the vision and joyful irreverence which have made Mr Harvey-Jones such a favourite on BBC Question Time. Desert Island Discs and among his own employees.

It is widely agreed within ICI that Mr Harvey-Jones would never have had a chance for the top job if the group had not been in such trouble when he took over. Moreover, so the story goes, only because king in times of despair.

If ICI is still sitting pretty in 1987, there will be a strong temptation to play safe. Mr Henderson, who has been on the board longest, would be the obvious choice.

But Messrs Hutchinson and Hampel enjoy strong support from within their own divisions. And when (if) Mr Harvey-Jones retires to Essex to steer his much loved donkey and trap, one of these two men could end up holding the ICI reins.

Rugby swoops for John Carr

By Andrew Cornelius

Rugby Portland Cement, Britain's third biggest cement producer, yesterday continued its diversification away from cement with a hugely successful £185 million takeover swoop for John Carr, the Doncaster timber products group.

Talks between the two companies were signalled by John Carr in a brief announcement to the Stock Exchange two weeks ago, stating that negotiations had begun with an unnamed third party which might lead to an agreed merger.

By yesterday morning the Carr family, which holds 30 per cent of the group's shares, felt able to recommend Rugby's takeover terms of three of its shares plus 384p in cash for every eight ordinary shares in Carr. The offer values the family holdings at £20 million.

Further acceptance by Carr shareholders, when added to Rugby's 2.5 per cent share stake, gave it support from 44 per cent of total shareholders.

Further aggressive buying by Rugby Portland in the stock market during the day mopped up a further 12 per cent of the shares to give it 56 per cent of the Carr equity.

The takeover marks the latest stage in Rugby Portland's move away from its dependence on cement sales in the UK, where profits have been hit by industry-wide price restraint.

Rugby Portland has already moved into the manufacture of reinforced steel and last year bought Addison Corporation in the United States to give it a foothold in the timber products market.

John Carr makes and distributes timber framed windows, patio doors and other building products for the building trade, and employs 1,300 people in the UK. Its pre-tax profits fell to £23 million in the half year to March 31, against £4.2 million at the same stage last year, largely because of the poor conditions in the building industry.

However Mr Peter Carr, the managing director, is optimistic about the prospects for the rest of the year after cutting costs and introducing new products including a new range of timber framed windows.

Mr Carr will join the Rugby board and continue to run the group once the deal goes through.

Fears that new technology would clear floor unfounded

Stock Exchange could be short of dealing space

By Margaret Pagnano, City Correspondent

The Stock Exchange believes it may have to increase the size of its trading floor because of the surprisingly high level of interest being shown by potential market-makers in either staying on the floor or taking up new space.

Only six months ago fears were that the introduction of the new dealing systems to cope with dual capacity next year would eventually push the bulk of trading off the floor to be handled by screens and telephones.

But there has been such growing interest from the proposed new market-makers, including the existing jobbing firms and pure agency brokers, that the exchange believes it may have to find new space to accommodate them. Some 60 firms have told the exchange they plan to become market-makers but it is not expected that such a large number will actually go ahead.

Options being looked at include reallocation of the present space which is occupied mainly by the jobbers' hexagonal pitches, using the boxes and telephone space off the main floor, or even building a new half-floor above the existing market. In the future the exchange may also have to cope with potential demand from non-member firms, particularly the foreign houses, who have yet to apply for membership.

A few weeks ago the council's market committee set up a sub-committee to look into the potential requirements so that the exchange can plan any increase in space which may be needed. This was partly prompted by enquiries from member firms following the exchange's paper earlier

this year asking them to give details of technological requirements.

The committee, chaired by Mr David Parry of brokers Panmure Gordon, is still conducting a survey of member firms. It has yet to talk to the potential jobbers but expects to present its report to the council in a couple of weeks' time.

The pendulum has swung quite strongly from six months ago when everybody feared the floor might disappear altogether. This may well still happen but firms are realising that in the meantime staying on the floor, or coming in for the first time, may prove to be quite essential, Mr David Parry said.

He added this also fits with the Bank of England's belief that investor protection for private investors can be best monitored if dealing stays on the floor.

Many of the firms have come to realise they will, after all, want to keep a presence on the floor, either as a collection point or a common meeting ground with other dealers. Most of their business will move to the new SEAQ dealing system based in their office operations but they are also planning to link these with SEAQ screens on the floor.

This is particularly true of firms who have private client retail business, which is high in volume but relatively low in value. Others to have expressed interest are the small to medium sized brokers who will continue to operate purely agency business.

The Stock Exchange's annual report, published yesterday, revealed that it made a small surplus for the year to March of just £433,000 compared with the surplus last time of £5.3 million.

Irish prospects 'poor'

Ireland faces a bleak economic outlook due to its huge debt and poor prospects for recovery by its own private industries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said yesterday.

The Paris-based organisation said Ireland had proportionally the biggest debt in the 24-nation OECD. "Government debt as a percentage of gross national product, the highest figure in the OECD area," it said in an annual economic report.

The organisation said the

employment outlook in Ireland was also particularly bleak. In December 1984 the seasonal adjusted unemployment rate was over 17 per cent, with the young especially hard hit. About one third of the jobs in Ireland are under the age of 25.

Substantial progress was made between 1981 and 1983 in correcting external and internal imbalances in the Irish economy but this slowed last year, the OECD said.

The public debt and rapidly growing burden of interest payments now absorbed a third of total tax revenue, Reuters.

Africa's difficult year

By our Financial Staff

The retiring general manager of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, Sir Peter McInerney, said yesterday that 1984 was "arguably the most difficult year for development ever experienced by the corporation."

He said in the corporation's annual report that his team applied particularly to Africa which accounted for more than half the commitments taken on by the CDC last year. But he added there was evidence that "the extent of actual and potential arable land should be more than sufficient to feed everyone."

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Dalgety bids for Gill & Duffus

By James Erlichman

DALGETY, the international foods combine, offered yesterday to acquire the Gill & Duffus Group of commodity traders for £119 million in an agreed takeover bid.

The deal, described as "a perfect fit" by Dalgety's chairman Mr David Donnan, would add new trading power to Dalgety's expanding commodity empire, which includes the Spillers flour and pet food businesses in the UK.

An agreed takeover would also end Gill & Duffus's five-year struggle to find its feet after a series of trading disasters in 1981 from which it never fully recovered.

Under Mr Donnan, Dalgety has moved rapidly away from dependence on Australian agriculture to focus on forest and food interests in the UK and North America.

Mr Donnan, who wants Dalgety to be a public company, has told the government that on existing projections the authority could be worth £1 billion and that Dalgety would require only between 270 million and 280 million of the sale proceeds to establish itself as a sound public limited company.

"Privatising Dalgety could realise some £1 billion, cut state control, offer wide share ownership, and improve the lot of its customers while protecting

Gill & Duffus runs a successful insurance subsidiary, Clarkson Puckle, and has expanded its food processing activities. But the group is still principally dependent on the vagaries of the commodity market.

In 1981 Gill & Duffus faced a series of disasters which began when two of its traders in Hong Kong lost the group £7 million in unauthorized transactions. The chief executive, Mr Pat Aiken, suffered a massive heart attack and resigned. Shortly afterwards the newly-established chemicals trading arm, Dalgety, which enjoyed record profits last year of £67 million on a turnover of £3.7 billion.

Dalgety is offering two of its shares and 25p in cash for every share of Gill & Duffus. The agreed bid values each Gill & Duffus share at 180p. Dalgety shares fell 23p to 425p. Gill & Duffus shares, which had risen in advance of the bid, fell back 10p to 180p.

Group profits have never recovered from their pre-1981 peak and earnings last year slipped from £20 million to £17 million.

Gill & Duffus's new chairman, Mr David Pearson, denied yesterday that the group had failed to regain its equilibrium. But he admitted that Gill & Duffus would benefit from being in the arms of a larger group like Dalgety, which enjoyed record profits last year of £67 million on a turnover of £3.7 billion.

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Britoil prospers in new share-out

By John Hooper

The Government, which is preparing to sell off its 49 per cent holding in Britoil, yesterday gave the firm's prospects a significant boost by awarding it the biggest portion of the spoils in the latest share-out of offshore exploration licences.

Most of the blocks allotted to Britoil are in the deep and relatively unexplored waters of the Rockall Trough and to the west of Shetland. But three of them are close to a well on which the company has been conspicuously reluctant to release any information.

Among its acquisitions elsewhere is a block next to a gas find in the southern North Sea.

Yesterday's allocations, which were made on a discretionary basis, were announced to Parliament by the Energy Minister responsible for oil and gas industries, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith. Last January, he handed out 13 blocks on the basis of cash tender. The total of 92 awards in this, the ninth licensing round, was "significantly greater than the maximum of 80 we originally expected to be able to make."

Burmah, which is currently the object of approaches from Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group, also did well, gaining an interest in 15 blocks of which six were allotted to it as operator. Burmah will operate four blocks in the much sought-after central North Sea.

BP received a good spread of acreage in the promising but difficult and costly "frontier areas" which has already found a field to the west of Shetland. But its payoff in terms of blocks close to known discoveries in less demanding areas is confined to the South Atlantic. The Coast adjoining the onshore Wytch farm field.

The Government has already said that one of them must not be drilled on because it would spoil the view from the shore

and create a possible environmental hazard. Its sole use from BP's viewpoint is that it will be wholly entitled to whatever oil and gas lies underneath and can be got at from onshore. BP's engineers strongly suspect that the Wytch farm field stretches out to sea.

In a statement yesterday, BP reiterated that it reserved the right to apply for permission to drill on the Studland Peninsula, a beauty spot and nature reserve. The company has already been granted the co-ownership of a programme of test wells on Furzey Island in Poole Harbour aimed at finding out how far the field extends.

So far the commission, which has been charged with privatising the lower assets other than houses and recreational facilities, which are instead turned over to local authorities, has sold assets worth £322 million since the Conservatives came to power in 1979.

This figure covers only the industrial and commercial properties owned by the eight new towns under the commission's control at the end of its last financial year. Subsequently, three further towns, Northampton, Redditch and Sharnbrook, have been incorporated under its wing, and a twelfth, Basildon, will be added next March.

Earlier this week, the Treasury disclosed that sales of council houses over the first six years of the Conservative government have amounted to £12.2 billion.

Government to tighten up new insolvency bill

The Government yesterday agreed to tighten up its insolvency bill to crack down further on directors of companies who repeatedly go bankrupt, leaving a trail of unpaid creditors.

New guidelines in the bill will specifically advise courts winding up insolvent companies to consider how often a director has been involved in bankrupt companies when deciding whether to disqualify him from running a firm in the future.

The advice is to be included in a new schedule to the 207-page bill — the first major shake-up of bankruptcy law in 60 years — following an

Campaign launched to combat Colorado beetle

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

Eight live Colorado beetles have already been found this year on imports of vegetables and timber imported into Britain, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday. The beetle is a pest which is feared to spread to crops that it is threatening to eat.

To launch a new public campaign to urge people to hand beetles over to the police.

Foster, information leaflets and radio and television commercials are to be used, with the catchline: "Collar the Colorado." Anyone finding a beetle, when fully grown, is just under half an inch long, with 10 alternate black and yellow stripes running from front to back along its wing

Call to turn Latin debt into bonds

A leading Peruvian politician, Mr Manuel Ulloa, has proposed converting at least a third of Latin America's \$60 billion foreign debt into long-term low-interest bonds to help solve the region's financial crisis.

Mr Ulloa, a former Prime Minister and now Senate President, said in an interview that the proposal had drawn support from senior Latin American government officials and financial experts who attended a United Nations meeting in the Chilean capital of Santiago last month.

A leading advocate of debt reform, Mr Ulloa said that the bonds should be issued by Latin American governments for 20 to 30-year terms, carrying a 6 to 7 per cent interest rate.

Much of the money owed by Latin America has been borrowed over far shorter periods and carries a variable interest rate that has risen sharply in recent years.

Under Mr Ulloa's scheme, all debt contracted for balance of payments support and non-productive infrastructure investments would be turned into bonds.

The "non-productive" loans envisaged for bond conversion would include public works projects that could not pay for themselves.

But debt used to fund productive, self-financing projects would be exempted from the bonds scheme, he said. This would include schemes such as steel mills, oil wells and all loans to the private sector. — Reuters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Higsons halted

SHARES of the Liverpool-based Higsons Brewery were suspended yesterday at 177p pending an announcement. The group had been due to announce its interim profits, which the market expected to show a dip from £350,000 to £300,000. But the announcement was delayed because of a disagreement between the next regional brewer to receive a takeover bid.

Shares in the last remaining independent brewer on Merseyside have been strong for a month now but the board has attributed this to limited purchases in a narrow market. Bass has a 12 per cent stake, with Royal Insurance holding 10 per cent. The biggest holding of 32 per cent is in the hands of the Corlett family.

BRITISH AEROSPACE has sold its 605th 125 business jet, taking the total value of orders so far to £1.4 billion. BAe has sold the 125 to 37 countries, including 350 to North America. The latest orders come from Australia and America.

PRISM TECHNOLOGY, the wholesale distributor of Sinclair home computers, software and peripherals, was yesterday placed in liquidation, with total debts of £7.5 million. This follows six months of receivership, in which buyers were sought.

HOARE GOVETT has bought a majority stake in a leading Jersey stockbroker, Trevor Matthews and Carey, which specialises in serving international clients and expatriates. Hoare will take full control in 1987.

THE STOCK Exchange has confirmed plans to link its currency options market with the Philadelphia exchange's market. Details have yet to be worked out but the aim is to make option contracts interchangeable so that open positions in one market could be closed in the other.

WEEK-END MONEY

INFLATION jumped by 2 per cent last month but does this make Grampy Bonds a good buy? Weekend Money tomorrow examines the prospects for index linked savings.

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
NATIONAL DRILLING COMPANY
(ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DE FORAGE)
"E.N.A.F.O.R."

Notice of Extension of Closing Date to unrestricted invitation to Tender No. IN-84/04.

Tenders interested in the unrestricted international call to tender No. IN-84/04 of 20 March, 1985 relating to the provision of the following drilling equipment:

Lot I	Fishing Tool
Lot II	Kelly Cock Upper — Kelly Cock Lower
Lot III	Pneumatic Spinning Wrenches
Lot IV	Hexagonal Kelly

are informed that the closing date for receipt of tenders, originally set at 18th May, 1985, is extended by 15 days as from the publication date of this notice.

Perpetual pay-off for Crocker chief

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Mr John Place, the Crocker National chairman who lost his job last year because of the bank's £1,000-a-month for life under a deal agreed last November when he resigned from the company.

He will also be provided with office space, secretarial assistance, use of the bank's chauffeurs and limousines (in the plural) and even the costs of preparing his 1984 income tax return which will include the £400,000 he earned during the year.

revealed in the 200-page Crocker explanation of the move to 100 per cent control by Midland — a fat and detailed document besides which Mr Place has to explain their questions look embarrassingly naive. Midland's letter to the chairman runs to only 27 pages.

The Crocker document, in comparison, is a masterpiece of detailed exposition. The section on transactions with directors and officers alone runs to over 3,000 words.

It uses the even greater detail than last year's public affairs with the banking authorities on the £1 million-a-year remuneration package of Mr Frank Cahouet, who is the top man installed by Midland

to take over at Crocker. Not only did Mr Cahouet get £250,000 cash to compensate for the loss of stock options with his previous employer, Security Pacific, but the bank is paying the tax on top.

This emerges from a 1,500-word explanation of Mr Cahouet's package of salary, bonus, pension and subsidised £100,000 loan to buy a house.

The loan is modest compared with the £450,000 subsidised mortgage for vice-chairman Mr Jeffrey Morby, the £800,000 for vice-chairman Mr Richard Rosenberg and the £995,000 mortgage made to Mr David Brooks on a shared equity basis, which has now been paid off.

Crocker shares are to be converted to "phantom stock units" which will provide an earthly reward if Crocker does well, because they are linked to earnings.

Nobody has yet argued with Midland's claim that these rewards are within the mainstream for large American banks, but they also show the premium which has to be paid to hire good people to bring round corporate casualties.

The 33 senior officers of Crocker had a payroll of \$3.58 million.

Meanwhile Midland's chairman, Sir Donald Barron (salary £24,000), received a 99 per cent vote from shareholders in favour of the move to full control at an extraordinary meeting, held yesterday.

RHP Group plc

Half Year Results 1985

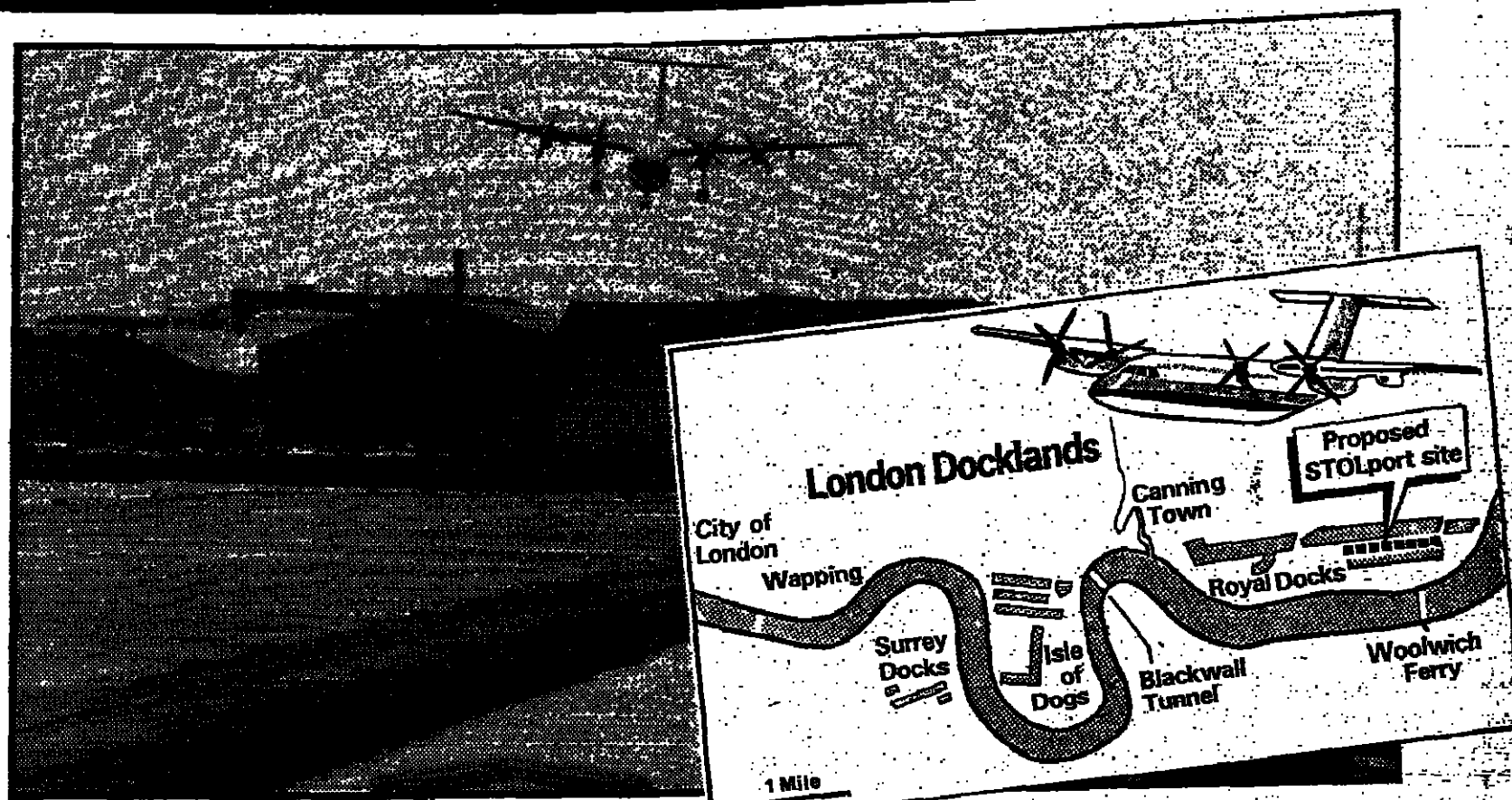
- Profits Doubled
- EPS up by 125%
- Strong Financial Position
- Increased Dividend
- Continuing Progress

	Half Year 1985	Half Year 1984	Year 1984
	£000	£000	£000
Sales	57,589	53,458	105,705
Profit before interest	4,806	2,923	7,612
Interest	(542)	(817)	(1,379)
Profit before tax	4,264	2,106	6,233

RHP Group plc is a British precision engineering group which manufactures ball and roller bearings and a specialised range of fasteners for the automotive, engineering and aerospace industries, and electro-mechanical and electronic products for control and automation applications in a wide range of industries.

The company has subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA, and authorised distributors throughout the rest of the world.

Copies of the Interim Report may be obtained from: RHP Group plc, PO Box 20, Pilgrim House, High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9XY.



Touchdown at Heron's Wharf in London's West India Dock

Flying start for docklands rebirth

Michael Smith reports on the employment revival promised by Stoltport

LONDON'S new mini-airport in the derelict docklands, the £15 million Stoltport, will bring conventional airline travel close to the heart of a major city for the first time.

The airport, situated in the wasteland of the former Royal Docks in Newham, will lie only six miles from the centre of London, virtually providing the City's business community with its own international airport.

Stoltport, though, will provide very much more. It will cut down journey time to the major European cities like Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels, create many hundreds of new jobs, stimulate new and much-needed investment in the depressed docklands area of east London and may even encourage other major cities elsewhere in the world to open up their own Stoltports.

Stoltport, for the uninitiated, stands for short take-off and landing, and reflects the type of aircraft which the new airport is designed to accommodate.

The aircraft is the Canadian-built de Havilland Dash 7, capable of taking off and landing over much shorter

distances than existing jet and propeller-driven aircraft require, causing less noise disturbance and carrying up to 50 passengers.

The airport, which is to be constructed by Mowlem, will be capable of handling up to a million airline passengers a year within five years and the airlines are already queuing up to begin services.

Brymon Airways, the Plymouth concern run by former British Airways executive Charles Stuart, has been the joint sponsor of the project along with Mowlem and is anxious to begin flights by 1987. Other airlines like Manx and Jersey European are also planning to apply for route licences.

However the Government go-ahead yesterday will mean that Brymon will now finalise plans to invest over £40 million in up to six of the de Havilland Dash 7 aircraft for the Stoltport venture.

A major attraction for the airport will be the airlines' claim that travel from London to key European destinations like Paris will be made much quicker by the introduction of Stoltport.

Brymon, for example, believes that the door-to-door journey between London and Paris will take an hour less — largely because business people will not have to travel across London and out to Heathrow or Gatwick.

An hour to the holiday-maker is hardly worth bothering about. But an hour is expensive and valuable time for business people and Brymon in particular will be aiming its new services principally at the City market.

There are difficulties, however, quite apart from the obvious concerns about noise and general conservation in the area.

While the Stoltport will be only six miles away from the heart of London, the only major route to the airport will be along the congested Commercial Road and Silverton Way in east London.

However, there are high hopes that the £80 million docklands light railway link can be extended out to the Royal Docks area and provide a more sensible lifeline to Stoltport. At present, the railway is destined mainly for the Isle of Dogs area.

Both the Stoltport and light railway projects will inevitably create much-needed employment in an area of London still suffering the after-effects of the docklands run-down.

While estimates vary, it is assumed that around 500 people will find jobs linked directly and indirectly to the new Stoltport. Many more will be created if, as expected, the green light for Stoltport triggers off a series of new investments in related projects like hotels, restaurants and suchlike.

The London Docklands Development Corporation, which is spearheading the efforts to reactivate the region, believes that Stoltport will provide the "catalytic effect" to spur the whole area.

Reg Ward, chief executive of LDDC, has said, "Our planning for the regeneration of the dockland area relies heavily on a favourable decision for the Stoltport." Mr Ward is also convinced that several major investment proposals are being kept under wraps awaiting the go-ahead for the Stoltport.

However, the Stoltport itself

will be a relatively small investment and occupy only 80 of the idle 470 acres of wasteland that once made up the bustling Royal Docks. It will obviously require a reclamation of new investment to regenerate the entire site, but Stoltport will undoubtedly be a start.

There are also commercial risks involved in the whole project. Although £125 million is not a large sum for a construction firm the size of Mowlem, the whole project offers the dream of huge expansion to little known Brymon Airways of Plymouth.

The proposed £40 million investment in new Dash 7 aircraft will dwarf any previous capital spending by the small airline and could easily treble its size within five years.

But there is even more riding on the Stoltport project for the east London docklands. A successful expansion of the airport will bring much-needed investment and employment in an area calling out for new developments to replace the former industry.

Stoltport may be the catalyst.

Taylor Woodrow teamwork achieves record turnover and profit

Mr. Dick Pattick, Chairman and Chief Executive, reports: It is pleasing to be able to report that your company has achieved its twenty-fourth consecutive year of growth, with record levels of turnover and profit.

Set against the continuing background of intense competition and slender profit margins presently available in the construction industry, the attainment of these not unsatisfactory results is a reflection of the fine performance of the Taylor Woodrow team and the great breadth of the group's operations.

This year sees the fiftieth anniversary of the public flotation of Taylor Woodrow and this event provides me with a timely opportunity to renew the board's thanks to our shareholders for their loyal support over the years; the continued maintenance of the free enterprise system, to which we strongly subscribe for its contribution to improving the quality of life worldwide, is greatly dependent

elsewhere, housing and energy-related activities have also had a good year. Housing activities, particularly in North America, again showed a noteworthy increase, whilst in the property sector gross rents moved up from £25.0 million to £32.2 million.

The Group had a positive cash flow in 1984 of £7 million, and liquid funds at 31st December 1984 were £82.9 million. Properties were valued as at 31st December 1984 yielding a net surplus of £9 million which was credited to revaluation reserves. Shareholders funds, including retained profits and the revaluation surplus, now amount to £335.6 million, which equals 568p per share.

Looking to the future, I feel that there are some grounds for greater optimism for our industry and we in Taylor Woodrow are certainly well-equipped to pursue any opportunities for the development of our business.

Particular appreciation is also

The Year in brief

	1984	1983	Increase
Turnover	£777m	£696m	11.7%
Profit before tax	£42.5m	£35.9m	18.3%
Earnings per share before extraordinary items	38.1p	33.1p	15.1%
Net dividends per share	15.0p	12.25p	22.4%

upon such support.

Whilst there continues to be a scarcity of major civil engineering projects in the home market, this has been compensated by an encouraging increase in the volume of building work secured.

1984 also saw further advances for our property portfolio, whilst

due to all those who provide the resources to sustain our team; to our clients for the valued business which they continue to entrust to us, to the teams of professional people and the numerous suppliers and subcontractors who so ably assist in the carrying out of our work.



Experience, expertise and teamwork—worldwide

Japan's unequal equals

A BILL giving Japanese women equality with men at work was enacted last week, but it will not signal a crumbling of this bastion of male privilege.

The new legislation, the Government hopes, will bring Japan into line with the minimum requirements of the United Nations' decade of women. It recognises women's rights to equal opportunities in a grudging fashion, with enough loopholes, its critics say, for even the spirit of the law to drain away.

The bill cleared the Lower House last week, but with opposition parties voting against the Government-backed measure. Their main objection is that employers who flout the new rules will not be penalised. Employers will be required only to "make efforts" to treat men and women equally when recruiting, promoting, and allocating jobs.

"This bill can't do anything to change ingrained traditions of male superiority," said Ms Mariko Mitani, leader of a feminist group that has lobbied for equal opportunity legislation for years.

She points out that jobs are structured so that only men advance to positions of authority. Government figures show that full-time women workers average 60 per cent and part-time women workers 45 per cent of average male salaries.

Even in the civil service, discrimination has been tolerated: women are not accepted into the postal service and until four years ago were not allowed to apply to work for the inland revenue.

Women make up less than 1 per cent of the total of senior executives in big corporations. Japanese believe in general that a woman's place is in the home, or serving tea in the office until she finds a husband, when she is expected to retire.

If there has been a marginal increase in the number of women in professional jobs, this has been more than offset by the increasing exploitation of women who take poorly paid jobs to supplement family income. Fifty-five per cent of working women are now over 35, mostly housewives who form a disposable pool of so-called "part-timers" (a misnomer because their hours are often as long as regular employees receiving more pay and proper benefits).

Robert Whymant

Plessey signals record orders



Three recent orders, worth about £200 million, have consolidated Plessey's international leadership in secure systems.

■ Sales £1,416 million

■ Pre-tax profit £164 million

■ Order book £1,605 million

1984/85 Preliminary results

An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated results.

	52 weeks ended 29 March 1985	52 weeks ended 30 March 1984
Sales	1,415,741	1,252,368
Operating profit	143,265	146,309
Profit before taxation	163,655	176,136
Profit before extraordinary items	93,544	112,045

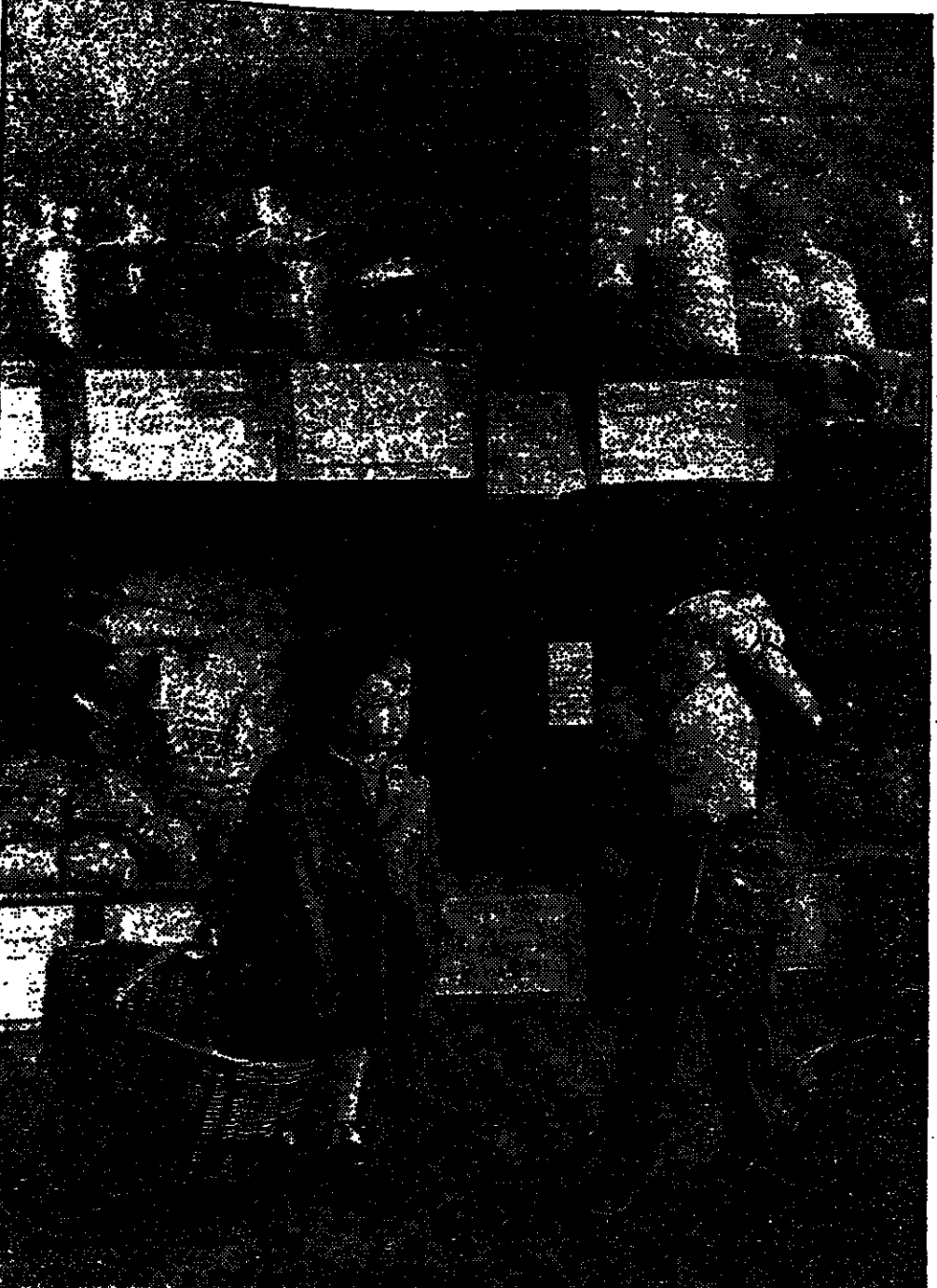
If approved at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11 July 1985, the proposed final dividend of 2.576p per share will be paid on 1 November 1985. This dividend, together with the interim dividend already declared, will amount to a total dividend for the year of 4.375p per share.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts for 1984/85 will be posted to shareholders on 17 June 1985.

The Plessey Company plc
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How to be fruitful and multiply

Martyn Halsall visits a Christian co-operative where a packer earns more than the manager



SMALL BUSINESS

NEW Testament economics are enjoying a revival in a spice-scented warehouse just off the M1. The Daily Bread Co-operative was conceived during a communion service, includes 30 minutes of worship as part of each working day and bases its wages structure on the Acts of the Apostles. It represents an alliance between radical commerce and theological revolution. This year it expects a turnover of around £400,000.

The small workers' co-operative, now employing 15 in a former hospital laundry in Northampton, had its genesis in a group of Anglicans holding meetings in their homes. In this "house church" extension of parish life were people who shared holidays and some possessions. "So why not work together?" asked Roger Sawtell, a former deputy managing director of the tool-makers Spear and Jackson.

The model rules he drafted to found the co-operative were later published and formed the foundation for 1,000 similar ventures. But initially Daily Bread existed only on paper, with eight members. The ideas of

worker participation that Mr Sawtell had his business to develop remained theoretical. Then gradually, over a period of years, it became clear to us that we were being called upon as Christians to set up a working group, and that's how Daily Bread got off the ground," he said. The warehouse was opened in October, 1980, four years after it was first registered.

Government help renovated the old laundry, through an MSC project. Seed capital was provided with an interest-free loan from the Commonwealth Trust, and this was repaid in 1983. Half the premises is used as a workshop for people recovering from mental illness. Four of them joined Daily Bread for up to six months at a time as part of their rehabilitation.

When it started the co-operative had just three workers, initial sales of £5,000 and a net pre-tax profit of £28. Last year sales were £203,000 and pre-tax profits £10,303. Daily Bread passed the break-even point in 1984, according to plan and now stocks about 150 lines in its cash and carry warehouse. Immediate problems are ethical and logistical rather than commercial. They include the co-operative's future.

It is not just Scriptural tradition but practical psychology which limits the ideal number of people working closely together to around 12. Further growth at Daily Bread might suggest a new co-operative, but one that has an identity of its own and not a satellite, said Mr Sawtell.

Proposals will unfold gradually, at the weekly meeting where all members have an equal voice and vote. It will also be the focus for an agenda for their two or three days of retreat each year with a community of Roman Catholic nuns.

Early members of the co-operative tended to be

recruited among friends; but new recruits are now advertised in a Christian coffee house in Northampton. Daily Bread's only other trade outlet. Each interview is preceded by a day's work experience, and includes questions about faith and its application. Newcomers work as prospective members for three months before receiving their £1 share certificates at a small ceremony with a nod towards Anglican decorum.

Members of the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed churches have joined the Church of England founders. Their ages range from post-graduate to post-retirement and their wages are paid on the basis of need rather than occupation.

The basic wage is £36 a week, but Mr Sawtell, although the manager, receives only £30 as he has a working wife. Another member, who supports a wife and two children, earns £36 as a packer. The wages policy was decided collectively from Acts: "and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need."

The temporary workers on the rehabilitation programme are paid the standard wage and the co-operative also sup-

ports Third World development projects, expecting to donate some £2,000 this year — four per cent of the total salary bill. In spite of their low level of salaries by conventional standards, some co-operative members would like this contribution increased to 10 per cent: the Biblical tithe.

The co-operative has also devised a work equity scheme to compensate for the lack of a pension and the financial disincentive of taking a wage cut for ethical reasons. This assesses the difference between a person's co-operative wage and his or her commercial worth and can provide a grant on retirement, funding if someone leaves and needs money for a new project, or help to counteract financial hardship.

But in spite of its roots in the Christian Socialist tradition and its donation of grain to anti-cruise protesters aiming to grow a peaceful harvest for the Third World at Moleworth, the co-operative has no fixed political ideology, said its deputy manager, Andrew Hibbert. He stressed the importance of links with local churches and help from their clergy. "But I think a lot of people, particularly the clergy, are quite frustrated by the problems they see and we feel that offers a very valid way for us to face issues head on," he said.

Andrew, one of three co-operative members under 30, left Lincoln Theological College after two or three years training for the Anglican priesthood because of such potential frustrations. "I prefer Christian action to merely ending up a good clergyman," he said.

Future opportunities for the co-operative will develop as more potential customers are introduced to their vision in the many local meetings they address. Their current anxieties include the people who could most benefit from their



products but who are prevented from visiting by lack of transport. The co-operative wants to avoid a "Purveyors of whole foods to the Volvo owners' image. A variation on a milk round might be one solution.

Such suggestions will be aired in the monthly worship, which is deliberately embedded within the working day. Customers are encouraged to join the singing and Bible readings, which co-operative members each lead for a week at a time. Their conference room is decorated by a collage made by Roman Catholic sisters at Turvey Abbey; the aim is for members of all Christian denominations to feel at home.

So far they have avoided fork-lift trucks and computers to ensure a simple, labour-intensive style of working. The music is mixed by hand, the spices packed without machines and in the spirit of Christian conservation customers are offered refunds on their jars and bottles.

The future seems inevitably to have been spelled out in the first chapter of the Bible: "and God blessed them saying, Be fruitful and multiply."

Employment law for the small firm

AGREEMENT on whether employment legislation is a major constraint on the performance of smaller firms is not always easy to obtain, especially as much of the evidence often quoted in support of the contention is anecdotal rather than properly researched.

Surveys carried out among small businesses often produce league tables in which employment legislation comes well down the list of constraints. On the other hand it may well be that many firms remain small or avoid taking on people at all, either by sub-contracting or using all electronic aids available, and so do not come into contact with the problems to any extent.

Even the smallest employer, however, needs to have a passing acquaintance with the legislation and the problem there is understanding just what it is he or she should be doing. It is possible to buy insurance to protect oneself in the event of legal action or being taken to tribunals but better still is to make sure the situation does not arise.

One of the ways of doing so is to keep an accurate but

simply written, practical guide to the law on employment close at hand. Just such a book has recently been published, called *Employment Law Keynotes*, by Len Collinson and Christopher Rodkinson (Colgar Publications, £7 from bookshops or £7.75 direct from the publisher).

The book provides a clear and concise guide to the main legal provisions and offers practical advice as well as acting as a trigger as to when specialist assistance is required. The aim is to provide a safety harness to lessen the impact of the law on small firms.

The book's structure reflects the nature of the relationship between employer and employee. It deals with the law in three major areas: before the contract of employment; during the contract; and on ending the contract.

It is an unusual method of presentation but one which works very well and, as the authors observe, is the way employment law operates in practice. They seem to have succeeded in their attempt to provide the answers to three main questions: "What are

the main statutory provisions?" "What rights and liabilities are involved?" "What sanctions can be imposed?"

Chapters cover recruitment, trades unions, individual rights, health and safety, redundancy, and unfair dismissal, as well as the text of seven codes of practice, and an example of a statement of the main terms and conditions of employment, a health and safety policy statement, and a discipline and grievance procedure.

The quick reference format and style of writing make this a very useful book for anyone who wants to get on with the job of developing a business but at the same time keep in step with the law — a considerable problem when the last decade has seen one major Act being passed by Parliament every 18 months.

Another newly published book of real practical use to the busy small business manager comes from the well established management publishers, Croomer, whose *Guide to Interviews* (Croomer, £4) looks at an often overlooked area, interview techniques. The book is the third

in a series, the first two of which, the *Guide to Fair Dismissal* and the *Guide to Discipline*, have already sold almost 40,000 copies.

Interviewing is concerned not only with recruitment and selection but also with consultations over performance, grievances and personal problems, dealing with health and environmental officers, and discussions with employees leaving. These all need the same skill and preparation as recruitment interviewing.

Most managers receive little training in this area in spite of the fact that interviews can be used to improve the effectiveness of management's role, benefiting both individuals and the organisation.

This guide sets out effective ways of preparing for, conducting and following up interviews. It is divided into seven chapters detailing the principles of interviewing, the structure, appropriate questioning and listening techniques, likely pitfalls and ways of evaluating the interview.

The book starts with selection and goes on to deal with the diverse requirements of

interviews for appraisal, discipline, grievance and counselling, as well as dealing with outside agencies.

Success in interviewing comes from looking at every problem and turning it into an opportunity, says Dave Patten in his book *Successful Marketing for the Small Business* (Kogan Page, £11.95), the latest in the now extensive series.

The book is written in the straightforward style characteristic of the series and covers everything from the principles of marketing and market research, through to direct response marketing, exhibitions, sales promotions, and packaging and point of sale. It also has a section on improving the product through innovation, licensing, patents and design.

Mr Patten aims at the firm with up to 20 employees, the very small firm which probably has the greatest need of the practical advice contained in the book and which probably includes a great many of those who fail to appreciate the problems of marketing a product until committed to a definite — and not necessarily right — line of approach.

Quarterly survey

SIGNPOST

A QUARTERLY survey of small business in Britain, believed to be the biggest small business economic trends study to have been initiated in this country, will be launched next Tuesday by the Small Business Research Trust.

The first two surveys cover between 2,000 and 3,000 firms, employing about 42,000 people in all parts of the country and in all sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, transport, construction and services. All respondents are independent small firms, of which 11 per cent were started within the past two years.

With 90 per cent of the respondent firms employing less than 100 people, the survey is said to be representative of small firm expectations on current economic prospects. By making use of the "balance" measure favoured by the broad CBI Trends Survey, the trust's small business survey is directly comparable for analytical purposes.

The Small Business Research Trust believes that its publication represents a real breakthrough in providing hard information about small business attitudes and expectations and "plugs a long existing information gap for policymakers in the small

service to give practical assistance to manufacturers for whom design plagiarism is a problem.

A SEMINAR on finance for small businesses will be held by the Planning Exchange in Edinburgh on May 30. It will cover local authority loan schemes, and the value of local authority financial aid, the role of the Scottish Development Agency, and other related subjects.

Further information can be obtained from Helen Glass, Planning Exchange, 186 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4HG.

A DIRECTORY of self employment, small business training and advice in Manchester has been published by the city's Self-Employment Working Party and the city council. The loose leaf publication is aimed at workers who are in touch with people wishing to become self-employed.

The directory covers advisory bodies, training agencies, financial information, and premises. Further information can be obtained from Steve Avery, SEWP, 4th Floor, 12 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3AQ.

edited by Clive Woodcock

GENERAL

FOUR FACES OF SUCCESS

In sporting terms it has been a magnificent year for Hull as our three captains can attest.

First is David Wilkinson, captain of Hull R.F.C. who won this year's Rugby League's first division championship for the second year running.

Next to him is Gareth Roberts who took Hull City's Tigers up into the second division this season — then for the first time in 7 years. Then there's Lee Crooks who this year led Hull E.C. to victory in the Yorkshire Cup and who provided Wigan with franchise competition in the first Rugby League Challenge Cup Final Wembley has ever seen.

And the final picture? Well, that could be yours if your company is also on the ball — for Hull's success is not confined to its sporting achievements.

Hull is the natural regional capital and marketing centre for 850,000 people and has all the vital communications links you need — including one that leads you to Europe and the Middle East. Labour relations are excellent and there is a young, eager workforce available. Cost of living prices are lower than average and a pleasant city environment also offers easy access to coastal resorts and attractive rural areas.

If you'd like your business to develop, in the perfect setting for success, contact Robin Dean. He'll be pleased to put you in the picture.

Robin Dean, M.A. (Cumbria), M.C.I.D., Director of Industrial Development, Hull City Council, Dept. G, 76-78 Lozings, Hull HU1 1UR. Telephone: (0482) 222607 or 222613.

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11 News: The Unknown Sans Bagley
12 - Detective of lost songs by stars
13 of nature and song
14 Natural Causation: The Holy Tree
15 - paradise and the fig
16 News: You and Yours from
17 "LifeStyle 65" and the National
18 Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
19 Book Plug, John Cleese reviews
20 books you'll never find in the
21 library - or anywhere else.
22 The World at One: News.
23 Four: The World at One.
24 News: Woman's Hour: children's
25 homes v. fostering.
26 News: Daughters and Sons by Ivy
27 Compton-Burnett. Drama serial
28 (3)
29 News: Going Places. Transport
30 News.
31 Story Time: Dead Man Leading
32 by V. S. Pritchett (5).
33 News: The News magazine
34 The Six O'Clock News.
35 The Cabinet Upstairs. New acts
36 from the fringe.
37 News: The Archers.
38 The Politics of the West
39 Stop Press. Fleet Street review.
40 News: A Plethora of News from Telford,
41 with Frederic Raphael, Gavin
42 Laird, Margaret Daley, Mgr
43 Bruce Kent.
44 Letter from America by Allstar
45 Cooke.
46 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.
47 A Book at Bedtime: My Uncle
48 by C. J. C. Bates (5).
49 The World Tonight.
50 Today in Parliament.
51 The Financial World Tonight.
52 News: weather forecast.
53 Week Ending. Satirical revue.
54 News: weather forecast.
55 Shipping forecast.

VHF: 11-12 Schools. 1.35 pm Listening
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FALLING IN LOVE (PG), Sep.

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